TC2 for Saipan and Tinian; TC3 maintained for Rota. PAGE 2
Biden OK's CNMI emergency declaration. PAGE 5

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

$1

Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 201
TUESDAY OCTOBER 10, 2023
www.saipantribune.com
www.facebook.com/saipantribune

LEIGH GASES
All four rows of gas pumps at the Mobil gas station on Beach Road were occupied yesterday afternoon, with a line of cars awaiting their turn as Saipan residents prepare for the approach of Tropical Storm Bolaven.

Bolaven could pass as a Cat-2

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Preparations in the CNMI are in high gear as it prepares for the entry of Tropical Storm Bolaven, which is expected to pass through the Marianas today as a possible Category 2 typhoon.

Because Bolaven is considered a "rapidly intensifying" storm with a constantly changing track, CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management special assistant Franklin Babauta said the CNMI is preparing for the worst as the system is currently anticipated to pass through the Marianas as a Category 2 typhoon later today.

A system is considered a Category 2 typhoon if it brings with it maximum sustained winds of 96-110 mph.

As of 6pm yesterday, the

See BOLAVEN on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- TC2 for Saipan and Tinian; TC3 maintained for Rota. **PAGE 2**
- NMC campuses closed today, Oct. 10. **PAGE 5**
- Biden OK's CNMI emergency declaration. **PAGE 5**
- NMI Judiciary facilities closed today. **PAGE 5**
- United Airlines flights may be affected. **PAGE 5**
- CUC activates typhoon preparation protocols. **PAGE 5**
- FEMA urges Guam, CNMI residents to prepare ahead of Bolaven. **PAGE 6**
- Flood watch in effect until Wednesday. **PAGE 6**
- USCG, partners prepare for Bolaven arrival in Guam, CNMI. **PAGE 7**

PSS classes canceled today and tomorrow; shelters activated

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All CNMI Public School System classes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are canceled today, Tuesday, Oct. 10, and tomorrow, Wednesday, Oct. 11, as the CNMI expects Typhoon Bolaven to make landfall today.

Flores

The closure also covers Head Start/Early Head Start and Early Intervention programs. In addition, all PSS events, activities, travel, and commutes scheduled for these dates are suspended, according to a memorandum interim education commissioner Donna M. Flores

See PSS on Page 4

Price freeze in place

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has declared a price freeze in the CNMI, as the Commonwealth prepares for a typhoon.

This comes soon after the federal issuance of a Declaration of State of Significant Emergency for the CNMI on Oct. 8, 2023.

The price freeze, issued pursuant to the Commonwealth Disaster Price Freeze Act, codified at 4 CMC §§ 5141-5144, iapplies to the

See PRICE on Page 4

NPS 2023 study says Rota sites don't meet criteria for new national park designation

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 2023 special resource study released by the National Park Service on Thursday concludes that Rota's prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites do not meet all criteria necessary to be considered eligible for designation as a new unit of the National Park System.

Sablan

According to the special resource study, based on the analysis performed, the National Park Service finds that the Rota study area does not meet all four criteria for

See NPS on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
The United States has sent a carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel.
PAGE 12

ASIA
Powerful earthquakes in Afghanistan have killed at least 2,000 people and more remain buried in rubble.
PAGE 13

LIFE & STYLE
"The Exorcist: Believer" drove out all foes at the box office, but its numbers didn't entirely make heads spin.
PAGE 15

GOT A NEWS TIP?
TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

TC2 for Saipan and Tinian; TC3 maintained for Rota

As of 2pm Oct. 9, 2023, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, in consultation with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service's Weather Forecast Office, has upgraded the storm declaration for Saipan and Tinian from Typhoon Condition III to Typhoon Condition II. Typhoon Condition III is maintained for the island of Rota.

Typhoon Condition 2 means that damaging winds are expected within 24 hours, while Typhoon Condition 3 means damaging winds are possible within 48 hours.

As of 1pm, NWS Guam upgraded the Typhoon Watch for Tinian and Saipan to a Typhoon Warning. This means that typhoon winds of 74 mph are expected, with damaging winds of 39 mph arriving within 24 hours. For Rota, a Tropical Storm Warning is now in effect while the Typhoon Watch remains in effect. This means that damaging winds of 39 mph are expected within 24 hours. The ongoing Typhoon Watch for Rota indicates that typhoon conditions are possible if the track of Bolaven shifts southward. A Tropical Storm Watch is also in effect for Agrihan, Pagan, and Alamagan Islands. This means that damaging winds of 39 mph are possible within 48 hours.

NWS Guam has indicated that while Tropical Storm Bolaven is categorized as a tropical storm at this time, the system will likely strengthen to become a typhoon at the time of its passage through the Marianas. The storm continues to organize and intensify, and a rapid rate of intensification is still possible. Residents of Tinian and Saipan should begin seeing damaging, tropical storm force winds of 39 mph beginning this afternoon. The time of passage, according to NWS, is estimated to be on Tuesday evening into Wednesday morning. Residents of Saipan and Tinian are asked to prepare for Category 2 Typhoon, which will bring 96-110 mph sustained winds with gusts up to 139 mph.

As currently forecast, Bolaven will pass between Rota and Tinian late Tuesday evening. Any northward shift would bring maximum winds to Tinian and/or Saipan, possibly as a direct hit.

MORE INFORMATION

For additional information, visit the following:

- **CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/
- **CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/cnmigovernor
- **NWS Website**: https://www.weather.gov/gum/
- **NWS Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/
- **Joint Typhoon Warning Center Website**: https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html

The storm's movement and strength, resource allocation, and personnel resources were discussed during yesterday morning's CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team meeting. The CNMI MAC Team, composed of government agencies and other organizations including the American Red Cross, met earlier at 10am for a heavy weather briefing provided by the NWS.

Shelters activated

Shelters were activated and opened at 6pm yesterday, Oct. 9, 2023. Residents who need shelter assistance are asked to use the shelters closest to their homes. Residents are expected to bring their own bedding, food, and drinks in the shelter. No pets are permitted in the shelter unless the pet is a certified service animal. An ID should be presented upon entry.

1. Marianas High School (Cafeteria)
2. Koblerville Elementary School (Cafeteria)
3. Kagman High School (Cafeteria)
4. Tinian: Tinian Elementary School (Cafeteria)
5. Rota: Sinapalo Office on Aging

On Saipan, the Office on Aging will also be open to accommodate persons with disabilities and those with medical needs. Services under these categories include individuals who are wheelchair-bound, who need oxygen, and for those with ailments that do not need to be admitted at the hospital.

For Rota, the Office on Aging in Sinapalo is the designated shelter. For inquiries, call Valerie Q. Apatang at (670) 532-2656. For individuals requiring medical attention, the Rota Health Center is open.

Secondary, alternate shelters have been identified and will be announced with additional details when appropriate.

Transportation to shelters

Transport services to typhoon shelters for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota can be accessed by contacting the following telephone numbers:

Saipan:

1. EOC State Warning Point: (670) 237-8000

Tinian:

1. Public School System (PSS) Tinian Elementary School Tinian: (670) 783-8962 (Primary) or (670) 433-9250 (Secondary)
2. Tinian Municipality Operations Center: (670) 433-1803 (Primary) or (670) 433-1800 (Secondary)

Rota:

1. Rota Mayor's Office: (670) 532-9451/2 (Primary Number)

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

Upon the declaration of Typhoon Condition II or I, the Rota Health Center and Tinian Health Center will be closed. Patients will be contacted to reschedule appointments that are affected by these closures.

The CHC Hospital, Tinian Health Center, and Rota Health Center emergency rooms will remain open 24/7 despite weather conditions.

Advisory for expectant mothers

CHCC will provide shelter for pregnant women who are at least 36 weeks pregnant or at risk for preterm labor during the typhoon. Contact (670) 234-8950 for more information. Residents of Tinian and Rota can report to the Tinian and Rota Health Centers respectively.

Advisory regarding filling medication

CHCC recommends that all residents make sure they have enough of their prescription

See SAIPAN on Page 3

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTERS
Don't miss out!
GET THE LATEST NEWS DELIVERED DIRECTLY TO YOUR INBOX.
Local Offers
Receive occasional local offers from our website and its advertisers.
Local Sports
Get the latest headlines on local sports!
Local Weather
Get our expert short-term forecast, summary of the weather details and news of any severe weather.
News Alerts
We'll send breaking news and news alerts to you as they happen!
Other Marketing Mailers
Saipan Tribune e-Edition
Receive our newspaper electronically with the e-Edition email.
Special Supplement
Taga Plus
Get the latest Taga Plus headlines!
Weekly Best of Saipan Tribune
Best trending stories from the week.
Select All /
www.saipantribune.com

SAIPAN

From page 2

medications to last at least one week. This is especially important for people with diabetes, hypertension, or uncontrolled asthma. Store your medications in a waterproof container and take them with you to wherever you are sheltering from the storm.

Public School System

The CNMI Public School System has announced that its classes have been canceled and all PSS departments will be closed until further notice. The continuation or cancellation of classes for other educational institutions will be announced by the respective institutions.

Northern Marianas College

Northern Marianas College campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be closed today, Oct. 10, 2023. NMC students and employees are advised to check their NMC email (@marianas.edu) for further updates regarding the reopening of campuses.

Northern Marianas Technical Institute

Northern Marianas Technical Institute will be closed today Oct. 10, 2023 and Wednesday, Octo. 11, 2023.

Prepare for typhoon strength winds

In preparation for anticipated tropical storm and typhoon-strength winds, Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, and CNMI HSEM advise CNMI residents to take the following preparatory measures:

- Gas vehicles and obtain fuel for your generators.
- Secure loose debris and belongings around your household or yard.
- Those living in flood-prone areas should take action; clear drainage areas and unblock storm drains to minimize flooding.
- Secure important documents such as birth certificates, tax papers, and insurance documents, and keep copies in a weather-proof bag.
- Prepare to board up windows or close shutters.
- Have a prepared emergency preparedness kit with first-aid kits, batteries, flashlights, toiletries, and a portable stove in your household.
- Stock up on food and water, as appropriate, for your household.
- Stay up to date with the latest information from the National Weather Service and the CNMI Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and other official sources.

Mental health matters

Given the anxiety and stress that the storm (and preparing for the storm) may bring, everyone is also asked to be mindful of the stress, anxiety, and other emotional/mental impacts that may affect our family, friends, and coworkers. Make time to:

- Eat nutritious meals
- Drink plenty of water
- Get exercise
- Get abundant rest
- Value yourself and those around you. Set aside time for a regular routine of deep
- breathing or other stress reduction methods to alleviate

See SAIPAN on Page 4

HYUNDAI mazda MITSUBISHI
GET A CHANCE TO WIN UP TO
$2,000!
IN OUR MONEY MACHINE
GET 30 SECONDS IN OUR MONEY MACHINE, GRAB AS MUCH AS YOU CAN
WE WILL DOUBLE IT!
2023 MAZDA CX-5 SPORT
STARTING AT
$27,995
PER PAYCHECK
$182
Standard with iActive AWD
Blind Spot Monitoring
Alloy Wheels
Rear Cross Traffic Alert
10.25" Color LCD Screen
Up to 30MPG
DOUBLE THE THRILL DOUBLE THE CASH
DOUBLE THE SAVINGS
Customers First
TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MOTORS
www.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.com
BEACH ROAD - SALES
Chalan Laulau (next to Ocean Ridge Homes)
Tel: 234-7133
LOWER BASE - SERVICE CENTER
Behind Saipan Ice • Mon-Sat: 8AM - 5PM
Tel: 322-7133
OPEN Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
*On approved credit (OAC). Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicles may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2,500. 2023 Mazda CX-5 Sport total price is $27,995 less 20% down payment. Financed at 9.64% APR for 72 monthly payments of $410.85 or $189.62 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $35,180.23.

NPS

From page 1

inclusion in the National Park System at this time.

In 2009, former Rota senator Diego Songao proposed including some Rota sites in the National Park Park to Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who was then in his first term in the U.S. Congress.

Sablan introduced a bill authorizing the necessary study that year and continued working until it was finally enacted into law by then-President Barack Obama in 2014 in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2015, Public Law 113-291.

The special resource study was for the prehistoric, historic, and limestone forest sites on Rota to evaluate the national significance of the sites and the feasibility of designating them as a unit of the National Park System.

Sablan got the study funded in the fiscal year 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 114-113.

Sablan agreed with SSongao that a national park would protect treasured sites, create federal jobs on Rota, and bring the island much-needed tourism.

The NPS preliminary findings indicate that the Chamorro archaeological sites, World War II Japanese defensive sites, and limestone forests are suitable for inclusion in the National Park System.

According to the 2023 Rota Special Resource Study, resources within the study area meet established criteria for national significance and suitability, and a portion of the area is conditionally feasible for inclusion in the National Park System, dependent on support from the CNMI government and the development of a management agreement, support from Rota and CNMI residents, and sufficient funding for park operations.

However, the study says, analysis of existing management and several additional management frameworks does not demonstrate a clear need for direct NPS management at this time.

The CNMI government is continuing a centuries-long tradition of resource stewardship while also providing visitor access and information about Rota's significant sites.

To be feasible, the study says, a national park unit would also be dependent on support from residents on Rota and the CNMI.

At this time, the study says, public support for a potential national park unit on Rota is varied as based on public outreach conducted by NPS in 2020, approximately half of those commenting favored the establishment of a unit.

The study finds that about one quarter of comments submitted opposes the designation, and another quarter requested more information about what an NPS unit on Rota would entail before forming an opinion.

Individuals requested additional detail about local use and access, the management approaches for a potential park unit, the level of involvement of the CNMI government, and the potential economic impacts of a unit.

The study says further description of an NPS unit proposal could address public questions and clarify the level of public support.

Sablan said in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that this final report found Rota's ancient Chamorro sites, limestone forests, and World War II fortifications could be included in the park system based on their unique national significance.

Sablan said the people of Rota have protected these resources for generations through cultural practices, local laws, federal financial assistance, and the dedicated efforts of Commonwealth agencies. So, he said, the report finds that there is no need for NPS management at this time.

The delegate noted that the report also expressed concern that many visitors a national park would bring to Rota could damage these resources and contribute to the introduction of invasive species.

A 2020 NPS preliminary report found that a Rota National Park is feasible, but only with support from the Commonwealth, Rota municipal government, and backing from Rota and Marianas residents.

Sablan said the final report concluded that public support is "varied."

PSS

From page 1

issued yesterday.

"We understand that you and your family may be feeling worried or anxious due to the anticipated weather forecasts, and we thank you for your patience as we gather the most accurate and up-to-date information to help us make informed decisions," states the memo.

As of 2pm yesterday, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declared Typhoon Condition II for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, and maintained Typhoon Condition III for the island of Rota.

Flores added, "Please be advised that we are monitoring the weather closely and are in constant communication with the appropriate government agencies. We will continue to provide timely updates as the situation arises.

"As always, thank you for your patience and understanding. We encourage everyone to stay calm and protected during this time. For the most accurate information on the weather, designated shelters, and transportation to shelters, please refer to official notices from the Office of the Governor and Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Please take care and stay safe," the memo added.

Separately, Flores held a press conference yesterday morning during which she announced that classes for today and tomorrow are canceled.

As in the past, PSS schools will be used as shelters. As of yesterday at 6pm, shelters have been activated for Saipan at:

■ Koblerville Elementary School cafeteria

■ Marianas High School cafeteria

■ Kagman High School cafeteria

■ CNMI Office on Aging (Man'amko Center) for persons with disabilities and those with medical needs

On Tinian, the shelter is Tinian Elementary School cafeteria, and on Rota, the shelter is the Sinapalo Office on Aging (Man'amko Center).

In her message to parents and children, Flores said, "I know there's a lot of anxiety out there—we've been through this so many times. But, you know, for those that are feeling uneasy, please I ask, if you can at all possible, put your energy into preparedness. Just continue securing your surroundings and get activities ready for your kids to keep them engaged, especially if the power will be out…"

In a separate memo, PSS shared a mental health message through social media. They shared tips on how to take care of one's mental health and prepare people's minds as the storm approaches.

Some tips they shared are:

■ Stay updated but keep a balance so you know what is happening but you don't overwhelm yourself.

■ Try to do things you enjoy like sing, dance, read or tell stories. It can make things better even for a little while.

■ Talking helps us feel less alone so it's ok to ask "How are you feeling about the storm?"

■ Make a Fun Go-Kit: Fill a box with cards, coloring books, games, even scratch paper. If things get tough, this box can give everyone a little boost of things to do.

■ Stay positive! Storms are serious, but it's good to focus on positive things like how you prepared and how strong our community is!

"Little ones might not always tell us when they're worried or scared. If you notice they're having trouble sleeping or sticking close to you more than usual, give them some extra attention by comforting them and spending more time talking to them, answering any questions they may have with a reassuring tone. Sometimes, their favorite bedtime story or a story from your family can help soothe them. Children take cues from adults and assure them family and friends are here to take care of them and keep them safe. Children with strong emotional supports are better able to cope with challenging times. Especially among teens, peer relationships can decrease isolation and add to their support from caregivers who may be experiencing their own distress. We've faced tough times before, and we've made it through. Let's look out for one another, stay safe, and remember we are a united PSS family," said the memo.

BOLAVEN

From page 1

National Weather Service in Guam reports that Bolaven only continues to intensify as it maintains its trek toward the Marianas.

Bolaven was last seen about 380 miles southeast of Rota, and 395 miles southeast of Tinian and Saipan and was moving west-northwest at 10 mph with maximum sustained winds of 65 mph.

"All islands will feel the passage of Bolaven, but any one, or two, islands could face a direct hit with maximum intensity. The current track and intensity forecasts will continue to shift gradually and a slight shift to the north would bring peak conditions to Tinian and Saipan, whereas a shift to the south would bring stronger conditions to Rota," NWS stated in its last forecast.

Due to the threat of Bolaven, President Joe Biden issued a Declaration of a State of Significant Emergency for the CNMI.

In response, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has upgraded the CNMI to Typhoon Condition II and has placed Saipan and Tinian on Typhoon Watch while Rota was placed on Tropical Storm Watch.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

The CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management, in conjunction with the CNMI administration, gathered various government and private agencies that make up the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination team at the HSEM facility on Capital Hill to discuss preparations for the onslaught of Tropical Storm Bolaven.

HSEM, in conjunction with the CNMI administration, met with government and private agencies that make up the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination team yesterday to discuss preparation work. Babauta stated that all private, government, and federal partners have started discussing the necessary actions in response to Bolaven.

"As the storm has started to approach us, we have started preparation. We have gathered our MAC team and federal agency partners have started to arrive on Saipan. We have called them in to discuss the actions we will be taking in the next 24 hours in response to Bolaven," he said.

One of the discussions yesterday was the opening of the shelters, issuing a price freeze declaration, and more.

The term "bolaven" refers to a Laotian mesa or plateau.

Power/water outage

Although it's still premature to confirm, Babauta shared during yesterday's press briefing that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has assured the HSEM that all CNMI water wells have backup generators that are topped up on fuel to ensure that the CNMI has access to water.

As for power, Babauta said that CUC has been cutting down trees, securing power lines, and more in an effort to minimize the possibility of a prolonged power outage.

Airport closures

All CNMI airports and seaports remain open according to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. However, the agency is also monitoring the storm and will update the public on the status of the airports as the storm progresses.

The CNMI administration and HSEM encourages the public to stay updated on the development of Bolaven and to prepare for the worse as Bolaven is expected to be a strong storm as it passes through the Marianas.

PRICE

From page 1

following:

1. Gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, natural gas, and all other chemical fuels, whether in gaseous, liquid, or solid form;

2. All foods and foodstuffs, including water, bottled water, beverages, and ice; 3. All clothing; 4. Flashlights, lamps, lanterns, candles, light bulbs, and other means of illumination;

5. Generators, cables, wires, electrical batteries of every sort, and similar equipment for the generation and/or transmission of electrical power;

6. All appliances used in the storage and/or preparation of food, including, but not limited to stoves,

barbecue grilles, ovens, refrigerators, and coolers;

7. Tools typically used for construction, ground clearing, or home repairs, whether electrically powered, chemically powered, or manual, including but not limited to, saws, machetes, hammers, drills, shovels, rakes, and brooms.

8. All bedding items, including pillows, futons, and blankets.

In addition, housing rentals, including apartments and condos, shall not be increased.

This price freeze shall last until rescinded, or until the declarations of emergency or disaster are terminated. ***(PR)***

SAIPAN

From page 3

your feelings of anxiety

■ Check-in on your family and friends periodically and offer support and assistance

■ Quiet your mind

■ Set realistic goals and actions for preparation activities before, during, and after the storm

■ Avoid alcohol and drugs

■ Obtain professional help when you need it

Stay informed

The Office of the Governor advises the community to keep a close watch on official updates relating to weather forecasts and stay informed on the latest statements and advisories which will be available through official channels (listed below) and media partners.

Again, this is an evolving situation—the direction, speed, intensification rate, and other attributes of the storm may change over the next few hours. The CNMI Office of the Governor and CNMI HSEM will be monitoring the movement of the intensifying storm, continue to consult with the National Weather Service and other agencies, and continue to provide updates when available and when appropriate. ***(PR)***

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

STORM PREPARATIONS
The USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212) crew chain buoys, used as aids to navigation, together during storm preparation at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam ahead of Tropical Storm Bolaven on Oct. 9, 2023. Tropical Storm Bolaven strengthened after passing through the Federated States of Micronesia and is forecast to intensify through Tuesday afternoon, possibly becoming a typhoon.

NMC campuses closed today, Oct. 10

Northern Marianas College advised its students and employees yesterday that its campuses on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be closed today, Oct. 10, due to the anticipated threat of Tropical Storm Bolaven, which is projected to become a typhoon today.

This comes soon after Gov. Arnold I. Palacios declared Typhoon Condition II for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, and maintained Typhoon Condition III for the island of Rota as of 2pm yesterday, Oct. 9, 2023. Palacios issued the declaration in consultation with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the National Weather Service's Weather Forecast Office.

NMC said in its news release yesterday that updates regarding the reopening of all campuses will be promptly announced.

"The college will continue to monitor the weather through emergency management agencies. Please continue to take precautionary measures as heavy winds, rain, and flooding are imminent. Further updates will be provided when available," it added.

NMC said that updates regarding class schedules and other announcements will be made through student and employee email (@marianas.edu) and the following platforms:

- NMC website
- NMC Facebook Page
- NMC Instagram
- News outlets including radio stations ***(PR)***

MORE INFORMATION
For additional information, visit the following:

- **CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/
- **CNMI Office of the Governor Website**: https://governor.gov.mp/
- **CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/cnmigovernor
- **NWS Website**: https://www.weather.gov/gum/
- **NWS Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/
- **Joint Typhoon Warning Center Website**: https://www.metoc.navy.mil/jtwc/jtwc.html

Biden OK's CNMI emergency declaration

U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. declared yesterday that an emergency exists in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and ordered federal assistance to supplement Commonwealth and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions resulting from Tropical Storm Bolaven beginning on Oct. 9, 2023, and continuing.

The President's action authorizes the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate all disaster relief efforts which have the purpose of alleviating the hardship and suffering caused by the emergency on the local population, and to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, and to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe on the islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, Pagan, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian.

Biden

Specifically, FEMA is authorized to identify, mobilize, and provide at its discretion, equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. Emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program will be provided at 75% federal funding.

Benigno B. Ruiz of FEMA has been appointed to coordinate federal recovery operations in the affected areas. ***(FEMA)***

ANNOUNCEMENT BRIEFS

NMI Judiciary facilities closed today

All CNMI Judiciary facilities will be closed today, Oct. 10, 2023, due to the threat of Tropical Storm Bolaven, in accordance with Supreme Court 2023-ADM-0016-MSC issued yesterday.

The order affects the Guma' Hustisia on Saipan; Office of Adult Probation Office on Saipan; Commonwealth Recorder's Office alternate site at the Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe; Law Revision Commission; Kotten Tinian, San Jose, Tinian; and Centron Hustisia, Sinapalo, Rota.

While facilities are closed, Judiciary personnel may be teleworking or activated for emergency and essential services. Visit the Judiciary's website at www.NMIJudiciary.gov for court information. ***(PR)***

United Airlines flights may be affected

In anticipation of Tropical Storm Bolaven, United Airlines announced yesterday that flights between Guam and Saipan may be affected beginning today, Oct. 10, 2023.

United encourages all customers traveling to and from Guam and Saipan within the next few days to visit united.com or the United app to receive the most current information about their upcoming flights.

Customers needing assistance with changes to their itinerary can also call 1-800-UNITED-1 (1-800-864-8331). ***(PR)***

CUC activates typhoon preparation protocols

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has activated its typhoon preparation protocols for power, water, and wastewater in preparation for the onslaught of Tropical Storm Bolaven.

Acting CUC executive director Betty T. Terlaje told Saipan Tribune yesterday afternoon that she has designated CUC compliance officer Vicente Deleon Guerrero to supervise the typhoon preparation protocols for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Terlaje

Terlaje said their line crews are always on standby, whether there is storm or not.

Terlaje said they will have another managers' briefing this morning, Tuesday, to discuss primarily updates on typhoon preparations.

After the meeting, Terlaje will then rush to the Homeland Security and Emergency Management Office's Emergency Operations Center, where members of the CNMI Multi-Agency Coordination Team would meet.

Bolaven continues to pose a threat to the CNMI as it is intensifying and possibly becoming a typhoon Tuesday morning.

18TH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Friday, October 13, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
BOE Conference Room, Building 1241Capitol Hill, Saipan
Via Google Meet at meet.google.com/sny-tpmj-iaj

AGENDA

I. Swearing-In of Student Representative

II. Preliminary
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

III. Public Comments[1]

IV. Reports
1. Chair's Report
2. Commissioner of Education
a. Financial Status Reports
i. Federal
ii. Local
b. Head Start Program
c. Others
3. Committee Reports
a. CIP
b. FPA
c. ISA
d. LIA
e. SICPP
f. SARC

V. Old Business

VI. New Business
1. FY24 budget-CIP funding
2. ARPA Spending Plan update
3. Analysis of $55,000 to support Rota Gym project
4. Incentive Pay
5. SY 2022-2023 Annual Report
6. SY 2022-2023 Citizen-Centric Report
7. Accreditation Visit
8. Proclamations
a. Education Day
b. Bullying Month
c. Head Start Month
9. Calendar of Events
10. 60-40 Procurement Rules & Regulations Amendments as Final
11. 60-20 Proposed Amendments to Regulations
12. Certification & Licensure Matters
a. CLO Report No. 2023-18-06

VII. Legal Counsel's Report

VIII. Executive Session[2]
1. Personnel
2. Other matters

IX. Miscellaneous
X. Discussion of Agenda for next Board Meeting
XI. Adjournment

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4809 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp • Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Friday, October 13, 2023, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (08/31/2023)
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
A. Letter from Dental Care Petitioning to Supervise more than Three Full-time Dental Therapists
B. FY 2024 Annual Budget
C. Executive Director's Position (Renewal)
VII. Director's Report
A. Financial Report on end of Fiscal Year 2023
B. Update on Office Operations for FY 2024
C. Update on Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists Regulations
VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
A. Governor's Office
1. MEMO From SAA for Fiscal Restraint
2. Directive 2024-001 – Modified Government Hours for Executive Branch
B. Legislature
X. Old Business
• Special Ad Hoc Committee Update on Professional Counselor and Social Worker Regulations
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
A. New Application
B. Renewal Application
XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
A. Clinical Psychologist – Request for License Extension
B. One Physician Application
XV. Announcements
A. Next Meeting Date
B. Off island
C. Adjournment of Meeting

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: October 06, 2023 CLOSING DATE: October 23, 2023 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary
2023-022	1-CDBG-DR Housing Grant Specialist-Saipan	$25,000.00-$30,000.00- per annum- UNGRADED
2023-023	4- Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Program Administrative Specialist	$25,000.00- per annum- UNGRADED

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net or www.cnmi-cdbgdr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; or at the Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net . NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

'Charters exempted from DOT order on China flights'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) recently informed the Commonwealth Ports Authority that charter flights are exempted from the U.S. Department of Transportation's China Part Order 213, which caps the number of flights from China to any destination in the United States.

In response to CPA's request for support in its endeavor to get a federal exemption to the U.S. DOT's cap on China flights, Sablan informed CPA that charter flights are exempted from this limitation, therefore he believes the order will not affect Chinese tourism to the Marianas.

"The DOT restriction only applies to scheduled air service and thus should not affect Chinese tourism to the Marianas. According to DOT, charter flights between China and the Marianas are still allowable. Chinese tourists can travel to the Marianas via nonscheduled charter flights, which, I understand, is how most Chinese visitors arrive," he said.

In response to this letter, then-CPA chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds clarified that Chinese tourist have been traveling to the CNMI on scheduled charter flights, which means they are subject to the limitations imposed by U.S. DOT's China Part Order 213. This is why, King-Hinds said, CPA is seeking an exemption.

"The challenge is that everybody assumes that all these China flights are regular charter flights. However, what they really are are scheduled charter flights. Meaning, they are scheduled flights that tour companies buy seats from. They don't buy all the seats, they buy a certain percentage of seats from these scheduled flights. These are seats that they guarantee will be paid for. To that extent, these tour companies are chartering but it is still a scheduled flight that they're buying a bunch of seats from. So, it's not technically a charter because they aren't chartering the whole flight; they're just buying a large number of seats. Hence the need for the exemption to remove the barrier so that these flights can come back. Because they are scheduled flights, they are not exempted from the limitations," she said.

King-Hinds

King-Hinds explained that if not given the exemption, the CNMI would have to compete with destinations like Los Angeles and even New York for Chinese tourists as the U.S. DOT order only allows 24 flights from China to the entire United States a month.

"We were exempted before through the U.S.-China transportation bilateral agreement under a provision called annex six. The provision specifically exempted Guam and the CNMI. But, China Order Part 213 issued by the U.S. DOT back in 2020 basically removed that exemption and made the limitation applicable to everyone flying in and out of the United States. Under the order, by the end of October, the limitation would be 24 flights from China to the U.S. a month. That means if the CNMI is not exempted, it would have to compete with markets like Los Angeles [or] New York," she said.

According to the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, DOT Order 2020-6-1 limits the number of Chinese carriers flying to any U.S. point, including flights between China and the Marianas, pursuant to Article 6, Annex VI of the U.S.-China Civil Air Transport Agreement.

DOT's action was taken in response to China's unilaterally imposed COVID-19 restrictions that all but shuttered the U.S.-China passenger air transportation market for three years. This was inconsistent with China's binding obligations to the United States under the U.S.-China Civil Air Transport Agreement.

DOT is gradually increasing capacity to facilitate an orderly reopening of the U.S.-China market, in accordance with public interest.

Chinese carriers are currently authorized to provide 18 weekly roundtrip flights to the United States. This number will increase to 24 weekly flights beginning Oct. 29, 2023.

The Civil Aviation Administration of China is responsible for allocating those flights to U.S. destinations and, to date, has not allocated flying to the Marianas.

SAILOR PAINTS AFFF STATION SEAMAN TOMAS VALDES

U.S. Navy Aviation Boatswains Mate (Handling) Airman Joan Weita from Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, paints an aqueous film forming foam station in the hangar bay of the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz (CVN 68) while in port at Naval Base Kitsap-Bremerton, Washington Oct. 5, 2023. Nimitz is in port conducting routine operations. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Tomas R. Valdes) *(This photo has been altered for security purposes by blurring out security badges.)*

SLDS launches warning system for reading deficiencies

The CNMI Statewide Longitudinal Data System Program announced late Sunday the successful launch of its Early Warning System in Reading platform and training for elementary school educators. This achievement was made possible through federal grant funding from the Institute of Education Sciences and the American Rescue Plan Act.

In collaboration with the Regional Educational Laboratory Pacific, the CNMI Public School System initiated the development of an identification of students who may be at risk of not reading proficiently by the end of third grade, thus empowering educators to offer timely interventions and support. To support this work, the CNMI SLDS Program has helped educators transition from manual data collection to an innovative Web-based platform. This platform consolidates data from diverse sources into a user-friendly interface, employing predictive analytics and utilizing student data to assess risk levels based on early warning indicators.

The EWS platform's User Acceptance Training was started in early summer 2023, then the SLDS Program engaged more than 300 educators in comprehensive training; they saw a platform demonstration in late July.

Elementary educators on Saipan completed their training on Sept. 18, followed by those Tinian on Sept. 25, and on Rota on Sept. 30. The training included PSS departments in Accountability, Research & Evaluation, Office of Curriculum and Instruction, and Student Support Services to implement the Multi-Tiered System of Supports effectively. MTSS is an educational framework designed to holistically address the academic and behavioral needs of students, ensuring academic and behavioral success.

To implement the MTSS effectively, Dr. Rizalina Liwag and Jackie Quitugua, who were the presenters, guided educators during the training sessions. Their expertise and commitment were instrumental in helping elementary educators embrace the MTSS framework.

Sinapalo Elementary School principal Daisy Quitugua said: "The EWS platform saves my staff time, empowering my teachers to provide not only timely interventions but also personalized student support for students…while looking at the whole child and their story."

Dr. Annette Pladevega-Sablan, SLDS project director, expressed appreciation for the federal grant funding that underpinned this project.

Jeaniffer Cubangbang, SLDS technical manager, also extends her gratitude to DbDriven LLC, a developer in Virginia, for their helping build the EWS platform.

For more information about CNMI SLDS and our initiatives, visit the program website at https://slds.cnmipss.org. ***(PR)***

Flood watch in effect until Wednesday

A flood watch remains in effect in the CNMI until Wednesday afternoon and flash flooding caused by excessive rainfall continues to be possible.

Based on information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center-State Warning Point, the flood watch is in effect from yesterday through Wednesday afternoon on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota due to the passage of Tropical Storm Bolaven through the region. The storm was expected to turn into a typhoon by today.

Excessive runoff may result in flooding of rivers creeks, streams, and other low-lying and flood-prone locations. Streams may rise out of their banks. Flash flooding may occur in poor drainage and urban areas. Extensive street flooding and

Flooding of creeks and rivers are possible.

As Bolaven gets closer, showers are expected to increase significantly. Latest model guidance indicates rainfall potential of 6 to 10 inches, with locally heavier amounts in excess of 12 inches possible.

This would result in extensive flash flooding across the islands.

CNMI residents are advised to monitor later forecasts and be alert for possible flood warnings to be issued. ***(PR)***

FEMA urges Guam, CNMI residents to prepare ahead of Bolaven

The Federal Emergency Management Agency encourages all people in the path of Tropical Storm Bolaven to prepare now and follow instructions of local officials. Anyone in the forecasted path of the storm should monitor local weather alerts for updates and finalize their emergency plans now.

The current forecast anticipates Bolaven intensifying and passing through the Mariana Islands Tuesday evening. This storm has the potential to bring flooding due to heavy rain and storm surge. Strong sustained winds can lead to dangerous outside conditions and power outages.

FEMA and the entire Biden-Harris administration are prepared and prepositioned to support needs that may arise from this storm. FEMA has more than 200 staff working in Guam in response to Typhoon Mawar and an additional 175 federal staff have been deployed in preparation for Tropical Storm Bolaven. These additional personnel include two Incident Management Assistance Teams that will embed with Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands officials prior to the storm's landfall to enhance preparedness efforts.

FEMA is working closely with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the American Red Cross, U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense and Health and Human Services and stands ready to provide a whole-of-government response if needed.

Now is the time to prepare

If you are in potentially affected areas, you should be familiar with evacuation routes, have a family emergency communications plan, keep a battery-powered radio handy and have plans for your family members and pets. If you are a person with disabilities or a caregiver for elderly, you may need to take extra steps to plan for specialized needs.

Get Emergency Alerts: Make sure to sign up to receive weather alerts in your community and to stay updated on the latest weather news from the National Weather Service.

Gather Supplies: Have enough supplies for your household. Include medication, disinfectant supplies and pet supplies. After a storm, you may not have access to these supplies for days or weeks.

Don't drive through flood waters: Almost half of all flash flood deaths happen in vehicles. When in your car, look out for flooding in low lying areas at bridges and at highway dips. As little as 6 inches of water may cause you to lose control of your vehicle.

Secure important documents: Place important documents, such as birth certificates, tax papers, and insurance documents, in a water-proof bag or container. If possible, have copies available electronically in a secure location on the cloud.

Personal safety: Listen to officials and follow all instructions. They are for your safety.

Visit Ready.gov or listo.gov to learn how you can keep yourself, your family and your pets safe. ***(FEMA)***

USCG, partners prepare for Bolaven arrival in Guam, CNMI

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Cmdr. Jason Mitchell, logistics department head of U.S. Coast Guard Forces/Micronesia Sector Guam, discusses storm preparation with the assembled crews from FM/SG, Base Guam, MAT/WAT Guam, and DOL-X, ESD Guam and USCGC Hickory (WLB 212) at the unit in Guam ahead of Tropical Storm Bolaven on Oct. 9, 2023. Tropical Storm Bolaven strengthened after passing through the Federated States of Micronesia and is forecast to intensify through Tuesday afternoon, possibly becoming a typhoon.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Crews from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam place sandbags at the unit in Guam ahead of Tropical Storm Bolaven on Oct. 9, 2023.

By SARA MUIR
U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard, federal, territorial, and port partners continued yesterday, Oct. 9, 2023, to prepare for Tropical Storm Bolaven, expected to arrive in the region today, Tuesday.

"As we brace for Tropical Storm Bolaven's arrival, the unity and preparedness of our team, alongside our dedicated partners, reflect our unwavering commitment to the safety of Guam and the CNMI communities," said Capt. Nick Simmons, commander, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam. "Just as we did during Typhoon Mawar, we're on top of storm preparations, securing our assets and working tirelessly to safeguard our ports. Our mission is to ensure the well-being of all residents, and we stand ready to conduct post-storm assessments and support port recovery efforts. Stay informed through official channels and remember that safety remains our top priority."

Tropical Storm Bolaven strengthened after passing through the Federated States of Micronesia and is forecast to intensify through this afternoon, possibly becoming a typhoon.

As with Typhoon Mawar, which struck as a Category 4 storm in May, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam is on top of unit storm preparations. The three 154-foot Island Class fast response cutters and their crews sortied Sunday and are safely out to sea on storm avoidance.

U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor's 29-foot response boats are hauled out and trailered, and the 45-foot response boats are coming out to the water onto the travel lift and heavy weather tide downs, respectively, Monday afternoon. The USCGC Hickory (WLB 212) crew securely fastened all buoys in the buoy yard to concrete sinkers and pre-staged additional aids to navigation gear for post-storm use. All ports are ready; commercial traffic departing by Monday evening, those vessels remaining are lashed down, and teams prepared container yards for high winds.

Crews are staffing all necessary watch sections and actively working with on-island partners to be ready to conduct post-storm assessments and port reconstitution efforts once it is safe.

The latest updates from the Joint Information Center posted to the Guam Homeland Security / Office of Civil Defense will continue. Guam is currently in Condition of Readiness 2, expecting tropical storm-force winds within 24 hours, and the JIC is providing updated school and shelter information and various closure announcements.

For more, ongoing updates are available from the National Weather Service Guam and installation Facebook pages. In the CNMI, the CNMI EOC State Warning Point continues to issue information for the northern islands.

The National Weather Service issued a tropical storm warning, a typhoon watch, and a flood watch. The public can expect breaking waves in the surf zone, a high risk of rip currents as the storm approaches, dangerous swimming and surfing conditions, and localized beach erosion. Remain out of the water.

Early communication with port partners and the proactive attitude of the team at the commercial ports in Guam and the CNMI ensured the timely implementation of heavy weather plans and preparations despite the holiday weekend. Port Heavy Weather Condition YANKEE is in effect at 10am, suspending all commercial traffic.

Port Heavy Weather Condition ZULU will be set by the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port for the collective Marianas when winds above 39 mph are predicted within 12 hours, suspending all maritime traffic and any cargo or bunkering operations. This is anticipated to take place tonight Monday.

Search and rescue assets and crews are standing by, but as the storm approaches, responders may not be able to get on the scene until the storm passes. Social media is not a recommended method to call for assistance as it is monitored intermittently. The use of 911 or VHF FM Channel 16 are the recommended ways to report distress.

More Information

For the latest advisory information, visit:

- **National Weather Service website**: https://www.weather.gov/gum/
- **NWS Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/NWSGuam/
- **Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website**: https://ghs.guam.gov/
- **GHS/OCD Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/GHSOCD/
- **CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp
- **Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Facebook**: https://www.facebook.com/jrmguam

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

U.S. Coast Guard Station Apra Harbor 29-foot Response Boat-Smalls are trailered and stored in the garage at the unit on Oct. 9, 2023.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

Crews from U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam prepare sandbags at the unit in Guam ahead of Tropical Storm Bolaven on Oct. 9, 2023.

CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER SARA MUIR

The USCGC *Hickory* (WLB 212) crew chain buoys, used as aids to navigation, together during storm preparation at U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam ahead of Tropical Storm Bolaven on Oct. 9, 2023.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXXIII, Issue No. 201

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Mark Rabago EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Another day of infamy: Hamas sneak attack on Israel must end in defeat for terror group

Saturday's Hamas terror onslaught from their stronghold in Gaza into Israel, murdering hundreds, was a sneak attack, just like the sneak attack by Egypt and Syria on Israel on Yom Kippur exactly 50 years ago. 9/11 was a sneak attack, as was Pearl Harbor and Hitler's surprise invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941.

The targets, be it Israel or the United States or the Russians, are caught off guard by their enemies, stunned, suffering major psychological damage and loss of human life. But then comes the response and the counteroffensive.

Those earlier sneak attacks failed. Hopefully, this one will also. We pray it does.

Hamas claims that its fighters are soldiers, but soldiers don't kidnap civilians from their homes to seize them as hostages, as Hamas did in launching raids into Israel in addition to their barrage of thousands of rockets fired at civilian population centers, including Tel Aviv.

Both of those are acts of terrorism, which makes perfect sense, as Hamas is a terror group, fittingly on terror lists of the U.S. and European Union.

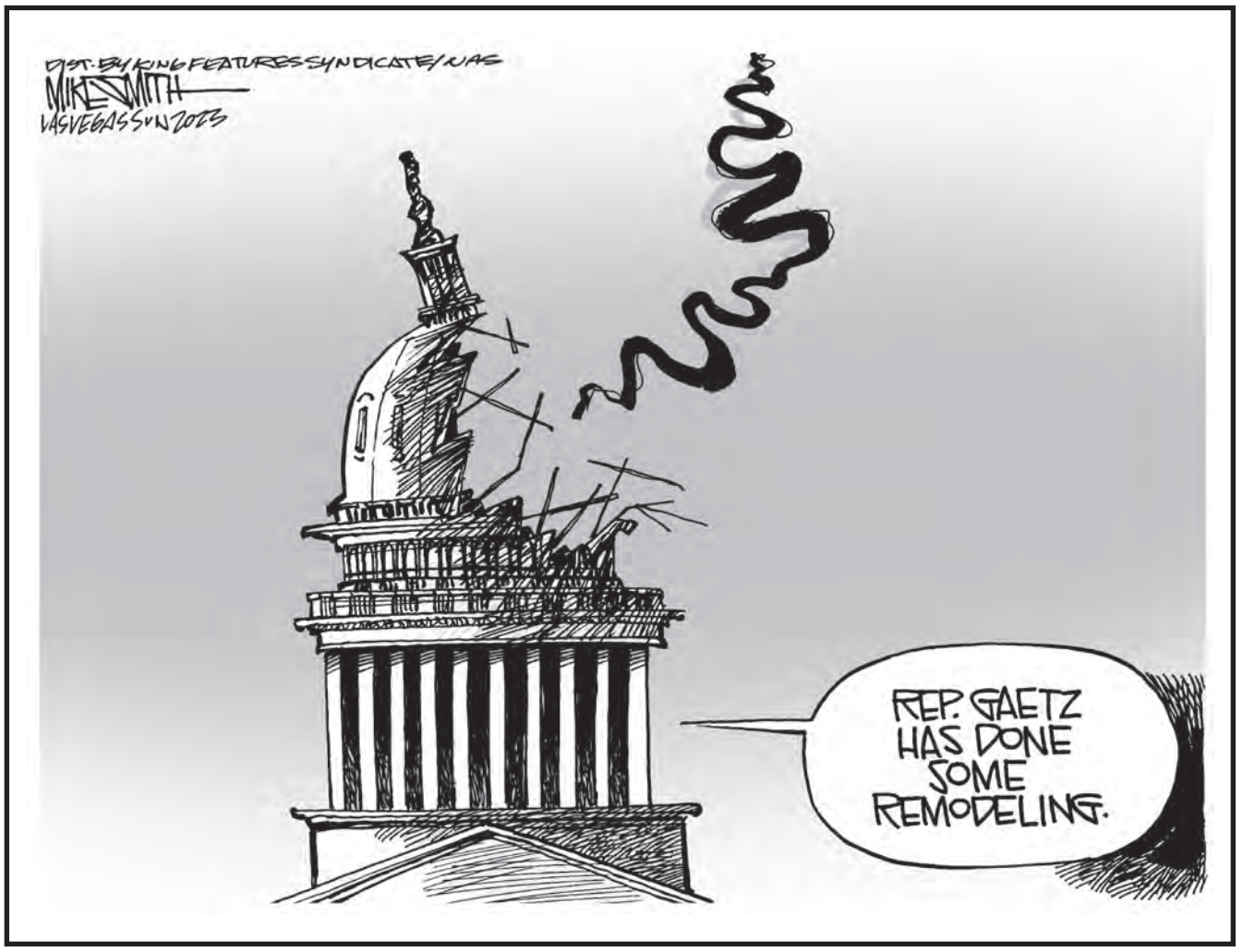
Also on the terror lists is Hezbollah controlling southern Lebanon to Israel's north, which is keeping that border quiet—for now. The common factor between the Shiite Hezbollah and the Sunni Hamas is the lead sponsor of terror in the region, Iran, which funnels them weapons and joins them in celebrating the atrocities and calling for Israel's destruction and the "liberation" of Jerusalem from the Jews.

Hamas has started this new war, or new chapter in an old war, to disrupt the growing movement for a grand U.S.-brokered peace deal between Israel and the richest and most powerful Arab state, Saudi Arabia, following other U.S.-brokered peace deals between Israel and Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Morocco. Hamas cannot succeed and the Arab-Israeli strides for the larger peace must continue.

Hamas shows that it can make war, but it refuses to make peace. The same for Hezbollah. On the West Bank, the head of the Palestinian National Authority, Abu Mazen, also refuses to make peace. It has been years since he has sat down for talks with the Israelis. Peace will come for the Palestinians, in Gaza and the West Bank, when they decide to join the negotiating table.

Prime Minister Bibi Netanyahu, leading a jittery right-wing coalition that is wrongly trying to undermine the independence of the Israeli courts, will get a reprieve for his many domestic troubles due to this Hamas war. Even President Biden, who has been very cool to Netanyahu, has rallied to his side, as he emphasized yesterday from the White House, pledging full support. Of course, Donald Trump is blaming the Hamas attack on Biden.

See ANOTHER on Page 9



Attack on Israel is calculated and ruthless—and that's Hamas

By MARC CHAMPION
Bloomberg Opinion

Marc Champion is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist covering Europe, Russia and the Middle East. He was previously Istanbul bureau chief for the* Wall Street Journal.

The biggest surprise in Hamas's massive attack on Israel is that it was a surprise. The operation was of unprecedented scale, involving thousands of personnel and pieces of equipment, from hang gliders to bulldozers and rockets. Such an effort demands weeks if not months of preparation, and all of it took place under the nose of an Israeli intelligence service that has a deserved reputation as one of the most effective in the world.

How that happened is cause for deep embarrassment in Israel's security community and will prompt a painful internal investigation. Israel lost control of military outposts, armored vehicles and settlements, and the conflict is far from over. At least 200 Israeli citizens were killed, 100 were taken hostage and 1,000 injured.

Yet Saturday's assault was also an important reminder concerning Hamas. It's a U.S.-designated terrorist group but no band of hotheads. It is a well-resourced organization with a paramilitary armed force that is as calculating as it is ruthless. That's what kept it in control of Gaza since 2007 despite being under constant threat from Israel, as well as from still more radical Salafist and other Islamist groups within Gaza.

Only Hamas knows the details of its strategy for Saturday's attack, but the potential fallout is plain to see. A war in Gaza threatens at a stroke to upend the direction of travel in the Middle East. It puts Israel in the invidious position of having to choose between appearing weak—a dangerous strategy in the region—and inflicting the kind of mass casualties in the crowded Gaza Strip that will enrage Israel's entire Palestinian population, forcing tough decisions on Arab leaders in the Gulf and beyond. Hamas said 232 Palestinians had died in Israel's retaliatory strikes, with 1,700 wounded.

Israel has had success normalizing relations with parts of the Arab world while supporting the expansion of Jewish settlements on the West Bank and, at best, slow walking prospects for Palestinian statehood. Since 2020, Israel has signed U.S.-brokered recognition agreements with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan. Saudi Arabia, home to Mecca, has been considering a deal. Even Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who for years had positioned himself as champion of the Palestinian cause for domestic political gain, met with Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for the first time last month.

Saturday's calls from Erdogan, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others for de-escalation came quickly and were doubtless genuine. All of them know the political pressures they will come under to condemn and break ties with Israel if Palestinian casualties mount. That now seems inevitable. Netanyahu said his country was at war, while Major General Ghasan Alyan said Hamas had "opened the gates of hell to the Gaza strip," in a clip to camera posted on the Israeli Defense Forces' feed on X (formerly Twitter).

Alyan went on to say that Hamas will bear responsibility for the consequences, but no matter how true that may be—and it is—the question of who fired first on Saturday will count for little in the Muslim world. There, popular outrage over Israeli actions in recent months and years, in particular around the Al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, had been mounting. Alyan's words will resonate less than those of Mohammed Deif, a Hamas military commander, who said that "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" was launched because "enough is enough."

Already, the Saudi government statement calling for calm on Saturday sought to position Hamas's actions as retaliatory, recalling the kingdom's "repeated warnings of the dangers of the explosion of the situation, as a result of the continued occupation, the deprivation of the Palestinian people of their legitimate rights, and the repetition of systematic provocations against its sanctities."

Hamas, which has never acknowledged Israel's right to exist, will have predicted and factored all this into its decision to attack. I say this not because I have Deif's cell number, but because I have encountered the group's calculating nature.

In 2011, I went to report in Gaza, unwittingly entering from Israel early on the morning that the U.S. killed Osama bin Laden. Later that day, a Hamas official approached to offer a six-man security detail or escort to the border, because they had picked up Salafists who were "looking for the American journalist" so they could make a video. I had a friend with Fatah intelligence connections check, and they confirmed the Hamas arrests, so I left Gaza.

I retell this only because it was clear even from the security official who sat down with me that Hamas had no liking for

See ATTACK on Page 9

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

US higher education needs a revolution. What's holding it back?

By TYLER COWEN
Bloomberg Opinion

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion *columnist, a professor of economics at George Mason University and host of the* Marginal Revolution *blog.*

When the revolution in higher education finally arrives, how will we know? I have a simple metric: When universities change how they measure faculty work time. Using this yardstick, the U.S. system remains very far from a fundamental transformation. It is no accident that former college president Brian Rosenberg titled his new book, "'Whatever It Is, I'm Against It': Resistance to Change in Higher Education."

Some background: Faculty at Tier 1 research universities (which includes my own employer, George Mason University) typically bargain for what is called a "class load." A class load of 2-2, for instance, means the professor teaches two classes each semester; 1-2 would mean teaching one class one semester and then two the next semester; and so on. Both smaller elite private schools and larger public universities operate on this system. And so long as the faculty member shows up and teaches his or her courses without major incident, the obligation to the university is satisfied.

This system, which has been in place for decades, does not allow for much flexibility. If a professor is a great and prolific mentor, for instance, she receives no explicit credit for that activity. Nor would she if she innovates and discovers a new way to use AI to improve teaching for everyone.

This courseload system, which minimizes conflict and maximizes perceptions of fairness, is fine for static times with little innovation. If the university administration asks you for two classes, and you deliver two classes, everyone is happy.

But today's education system is dynamic, and needs to become even more so. There is already the internet, YouTube and a flurry of potential innovations coming from AI. If professors really are a society's best minds, shouldn't they be working to improve the entire educational process, not just punching the equivalent of a time clock at a university?

Such a change would require giving them credit for innovations, which in turn would require a broader conception of their responsibilities. Ideally, a department chair or dean or provost ought to be able to tell them to add a certain amount of value to the teaching and student development process—through mentoring, time in the classroom or other ways. The definition of a good job would not be just fulfilling the "2-2" teaching load called for in a contract, it would be more discretionary.

This would be hard to make work, of course, and many faculty would hate it. If the teaching requirement is discretionary, and in the hands of administrators, many professors will fear being bargained into a higher workload. Almost certainly, many (not all) professors would be bargained into a higher workload.

A further question is why a semester should be 15 weeks long, as is typically the case. Some basic courses, such as introductory economics or perhaps calculus, involve learning a set bundle of concepts and techniques. But more advanced classes might be better done in four-week units. Or how about hearing a professor lecture every day for a week, and then the sequence ends?

Should not most learning be done on a "menu" basis, rather than being forced on everyone in 15-week chunks? Probably so, but then what counts as "one class" is more of a sliding scale than a fixed unit. If higher education is going to be reorganized on such a menu-driven basis, classroom obligations will have to be rethought and renegotiated as well.

To be clear, none of these reforms will come next year, or even in the next five years. But this is what a system that rewards true innovation would look like. Since most people are not innovators, even in Silicon Valley, there might be fewer classes for a minority of professors and higher workloads for the majority. There is nothing inherently wrong with that outcome, but you can see why Brian Rosenberg chose the title he did for his book.

A centrist rebellion is what Congress needs

By MATTHEW YGLESIAS
Bloomberg Opinion

Matthew Yglesias is a columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. *A co-founder of and former columnist for Vox, he writes the* Slow Boring *blog and newsletter. He is author of* One Billion Americans.

If there's one thing everyone in the House of Representatives can agree on these days, it's that they are mad.

The most radical House Republicans are angry that former Speaker Kevin McCarthy didn't deliver on all the promises they extorted from him to give him the job in the first place. Moderate Republicans are furious that Democrats didn't bail out McCarthy after he tempted the wrath of the radicals by agreeing to move a continuing resolution and avert a government shutdown. And Democrats are upset that the whole shutdown drama even happened at all, since it could have been avoided had McCarthy just stuck to the deal he made to resolve the debt ceiling showdown earlier this year.

It's possible to adjudicate the balance of rage, but the simple truth is that moderates in both parties have been unduly passive—not just in this Congress, but for the last several.

It's not as if better models don't exist. Power in the Alaska legislature, for example, is shared by a coalition of moderate Republicans acting in tandem with Democrats. Something similar happened several years ago in New York—except it was a group of moderate Democrats breaking with the majority of their party to form a caucus that controlled the state senate in tandem with Republicans.

All of which raises the question: Could something like that work in Washington?

First, given the current partisan makeup of the House, the speaker should clearly be a Republican. For the government to function, it would need to be someone who is willing to tell members such as Matt Gaetz to go pound sand. For that to work, the speaker would need Democratic Party votes. And to get those votes, the speaker would need to give the Democrats something.

The question is what that something should be. Here's an idea: a guarantee that the minority leader can force a floor vote on some number of bills each session. Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries has called for a process that would "facilitate up-or-down votes on bills that have strong bipartisan support." Perhaps that could simply mean he is entitled to call a vote on some set number of bills each session. It doesn't need to be a large number, but it can't be zero.

That, after all, was the origin of the entire crisis in the first place.

To become law, a spending package needs to pass the Senate (where it requires bipartisan support to get 60 votes) and be signed into law by the president. Under the circumstances, there's no real point in worrying about what can command unanimity among House Republicans. And there's no reason to doubt that a bill supported by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and President Joe Biden can also get a majority in the House.

But the terms of the party cartel that govern the House meant that McCarthy wouldn't bring a bipartisan bill to the floor for a vote. That meant a shutdown that he was going to take the blame for. Then, at the last minute, he changed course, and agreed to move a version of the bill that had bipartisan support in the Senate—except with aid to Ukraine stripped out. It's not entirely clear why he did that—most House Republicans support Ukraine aid—but it's possible that he was trying to bait Democrats into voting it down, so he could then blame them for the shutdown. Senator J.D. Vance even jumped the gun and tweeted: "Shout it from the rooftops: Democrats are trying to shut down the government over Ukraine. This is a national scandal."

But Democrats didn't take the bait. As a result, there is no government shutdown, no Speaker McCarthy and, critically, no aid to Ukraine—even though most members of both parties support it.

It's normal for a legislative majority to use its power to control the legislative agenda. But these kinds of party cartels need not block all action. The entire "Reagan Revolution" of 1981-82 took place because then-Speaker Tip O'Neill allowed the House to vote on conservative bills that were supported by a coalition of Republicans and conservative Democrats. The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act of 2002 passed the House with 41 Republican votes and 198 from Democrats, even though Republicans held a majority and could have blocked its passage. A decade or so later, near the very end of his speakership, John Boehner moved a number of bills that his far-right Republican colleagues opposed, effectively sealing a kind of political murder/suicide pact.

Notice the change? In O'Neill's day, the moderate members insisted that if he wanted to keep his job, he had to allow them some votes. By Boehner's time—and even more so now under McCarthy—it's the radicals who are making demands, while moderates are left to pick up the pieces and point fingers.

To an extent this is natural. People with more moderate views tend to be moderate in temperament as well, or at least less inclined to take drastic action. I am hardly the first person to make this observation; as Yeats famously and more eloquently put it, the center cannot hold because "the best lack all conviction, while the worst are full of passionate intensity."

At the same time, there are precedents for more moderate politicians to find their convictions, work together and get things done. In the case of the US House of Representatives, that means working out a bipartisan coalition that can agree on installing a Republican speaker without entrenching total Republican Party control over the legislative agenda.

ATTACK

From page 8

U.S. journalists, nor any moral issue with hosting an exemplary retaliation for Bin Laden's death. Yet this was May 2011. Hamas was in reconciliation talks with Fatah then, under international scrutiny and the group didn't want the kind of attention a video would draw.

Now, they do have a tactical interest in that kind of attention. Events had not been going Hamas's way in recent years, and a Saudi-Israeli normalization would have been a major defeat. Hamas's aggression will boost its support base, and the appalling videos of Israeli casualties it organized to take on Saturday will help with recruitment. Responding to Hamas while keeping Israeli-Arab normalization on track will be extraordinarily difficult for Netanyahu to pull off, and the more so the longer the fighting continues.

ANOTHER

From page 8

Hamas and Iran want Israel to strike back hard, thinking that a massive response will entrap Israel in the Gaza quicksand, sapping her political and military strength. Israel has the might to level Gaza, but Hamas hides among civilians, using them as human shields, which is a war crime. And Hamas now holds captured Israeli soldiers and civilians, complicating everything.

Netanyahu and his commanders have a tremendous challenge before them to destroy Hamas' military assets while sparing Palestinian civilians in Gaza.

Hamas struck first, but their wave of terror will not and cannot prevail. Israel has been hurt hard, but Israel will prevail.

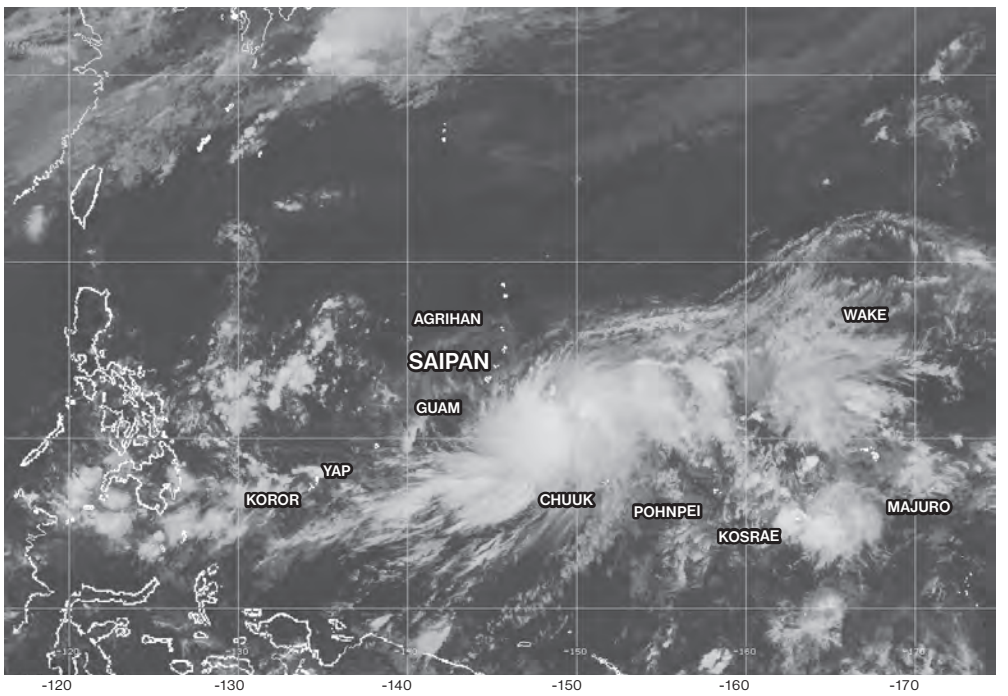
©2023 New York Daily News

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Frequent showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.	Frequent showers and possibly a thunderstorm. Some of the storms could produce heavy rainfall.	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
82 / 76°	83 / 76°	86° / 79°	88° / 79°	86° / 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:09 AM, MONDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trades prevail in the Marianas. Satellite imagery and Doppler radar indicate some showers entering eastern Rota waters. Ipan buoy indicates seas are about 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 77°
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 80°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	88° / 76°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 76°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	86° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:07 AM	6:00 PM
Wednesday	6:07 AM	5:59 PM
Thursday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	5:58 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	5:57 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:20 AM	3:23 PM	-
Wednesday	3:09 AM	3:59 PM	-
Thursday	3:56 AM	4:32 PM	-
Friday	4:42 AM	5:06 PM	-
Saturday	5:29 AM	5:39 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Windy	63° / 50°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Hong Kong	Sunny	90° / 79°
Honolulu	Windy	86° / 76°
London	Showers	61° / 50°
Los Angeles	Sunny	80° / 61°
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 46°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
New York	Sunny	65° / 48°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	81° / 66°
Paris	Showers	63° / 54°
Busan	Showers	77° / 63°
Rome	Sunny	73° / 57°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	98° / 70°
San Francisco	Sunny	76° / 55°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	72° / 54°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	88° / 68°
Washington, DC	Sunny	72° / 50°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:01 AM	High Tide	1.39
10:58 AM	Low Tide	0.23
6:02 PM	High Tide	1.71
11:58 PM	Low Tide	0.89

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, Saipan Tribune offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

IT&E prepares as Bolaven approaches region

IT&E is fully mobilized and committed to minimizing any cellular, internet or landline interruptions to subscribers due to the storm.

To keep subscribers connected during the upcoming adverse conditions, IT&E is doing the following:

■ **Preparing back-up power:** IT&E is deploying generators and backup power sources at crucial network sites to ensure uninterrupted service in the event of power fluctuations.

■ **Mobilizing response teams:** Teams are on standby to respond as soon as it is safe to assess service interruptions or repair network issues caused by the storm.

■ **24/7 monitoring:** IT&E has round-the-clock monitoring in place to detect and address any network issues as soon as they arise.

■ **Customer support**: IT&E's Customer Care team will remain accessible to assist subscribers with any connectivity issues. To report service issues, subscribers can call (671) 922-4483 in Guam or (670) 682-4483 in the CNMI. Callers may experience hold times as we monitor our network and work to resolve emergency situations.

"We understand the importance of staying connected, especially during times of crisis. Rest assured, we are committed to providing the best possible service and support throughout this storm," said IT&E president Jim Oehlerking.

For updates and more information, visit ite.net or follow IT&E's official social media pages. ***(PR)***

Community First opens a new Hagåtña HQ

» Credit union completes 60 acts of community to commemorate the opening and 60 years in Guam

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Community First Guam Federal Credit Union celebrated the opening of its newly built Hågatña headquarters and Members Service Center last Saturday with a dedication and ribbon-cutting event. The new site is along Route 4, between West O'Brien Drive and Chalan Santo Papa, in the island's capital of Hagåtña.

"The opening of our new Community First headquarters and Members Service Center takes place during a commemorative year for us. We celebrated our 60th anniversary in 2022, and the opening of our newly built member service center symbolizes our commitment to the island and our members to continue serving them with excellence well into the future," said Gerard Cruz, president and CEO of Community First.

Construction on the three-story, 15,000-square-foot Hågatña headquarters and Member Service Center began during the pandemic. Community First broke ground in March of 2021, and construction took two-and-a-half years to complete with a total investment of $7.5 million. The first floor will serve as the Hågatña Member Service Center; the second floor as the call center, accounting department, and training room; and the third floor as the human resources hub, corporate offices, and board of directors conference room. This is the second stand-alone building built by Community First on Guam.

"It was essential for us to build our new headquarters in Hågatña for many reasons," said Cruz said. "In addition to providing another centralized location for our members to conveniently conduct their transactions, we felt it was important to contribute to the revitalization of the island's historic capital. We are proud of our new building as it will allow us to establish deeper roots while providing a modern facility for our members and employees. Our new headquarters will allow us to better serve our members and community."

As part of the build, Community First engaged local artist Joshua Agerstrand to design a mural that honors its multi-generational members while incorporating cultural pride. The mural is located along the drive-up teller lane, and the community is invited to stop in to view it. Photos of the final mural will be revealed on Community First's social media pages (@cfirstguam on Facebook and Instagram).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union opens a newly built Hågatña headquarters and Members Service Center along Route 4, between West O'Brien Drive and Chalan Santo Papa, in Hagåtña.

The new Community First Hågatña headquarters and Member Service Center is now open, and members are welcome to conduct their transactions through the drive-up teller line from the Martyr Street entrance next to the Guam Library, walk-up services, and the ATM located at the front of the building, with ample parking and accessible from Route 4 and Martyr Street.

Cruz noted that the building was the last project designed by the late and legendary architect Andrew "Andy" Laguaña. "As we open our new headquarters, we recognize the talent and legacy of legendary Chamorro architect Andy Laguaña whose expertise has helped us to design a headquarters that we are so proud of," Cruz added.

Community First completes '60 Acts Of Community'

Derek Mandell, AVP of Marketing for Community First, also announced Saturday that the credit union has officially completed its "60 Acts of Community," a community give-back program that was created to thank members for their 60 years of loyalty and trust while celebrating the company's 60 years in Guam.

"Last year, when we began celebrating Community First's 60th anniversary, our team wanted to mark this milestone by honoring our members who have supported us for six decades. We established the Community First 60 Acts of Community last summer with the goal of completing 60 acts of kindness and meaningful community support by the time our new headquarters opened. We are proud to announce that we have officially completed our goal," said Mandell.

The 60 Acts of Community ranged from a Hagåtña clean-up that launched the program, to canned foods and supplies to Harvest House, to securing match grants that supported housing programs for at-risk women and youth.

"Each act was selected to expand our community support, and we are a better company for it," said Mandell. "We are a company that believes in caring for our community, members, and employees, and the 60 Acts of Community allowed us to show our appreciation while lending a hand where it was needed most."

A list of all 60 Acts of Community can be viewed on Community First's website, cfirstguam.com.

"We are so proud that we met our goal of completing all 60 Acts by the opening of our new headquarters. We thank our board, leadership team, and employees from each of our four member service centers in Hagåtña, Tamuning, Mangilao, and Dededo for their support of this meaningful program," Mandell added.

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered, full-service financial institution serving the community of Guam. It was established in 1962. ***(Community First)***

Mobil: There is enough fuel

In response to the Typhoon Condition 3 announcement last Sunday, Oct 8, Mobil service stations remain open but may be closed depending on the announcement of Typhoon Condition I for Saipan.

Mobil assured that there is more than sufficient fuel on the island to meet the needs of its customers and the community. "We urge customers to buy only what they need," it said in a news release yesterday.

"The safety of our customers, employees, service station staff, tank truck drivers and the community remain our top priority," the statement added. ***(PR)***

MARK RABAGO

People line up to buy fuel for their cars at this Mobil gas station in Garapan.

BOG temporarily closes Guam, CNMI branches due to Bolaven

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Bank of Guam announced Sunday the temporary closure of its branches in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands due to approaching Tropical Storm Bolaven.

Effective yesterday, Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, Bank of Guam headquarters, along with all Guam branches, closed at 12pm and their Familia Contact Center closed at 2pm until further notice. CNMI branches were closed on Monday.

In preparation for the storm, Bank of Guam encourages residents to:

■ Withdraw cash

■ Download our mobile banking app

■ Secure your homes and clear loose items around your yard

■ Have a flashlight and radio ready with fresh batteries

■ Secure important documents and belongings on high ground

■ Fill up your gas tanks

■ Do your laundry

Bank of Guam will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates via its website and social media. In the meantime, customers are advised to stay informed about Tropical Storm Bolaven through official government channels, local news outlets, and weather advisories. ***(PR)***

Nation

US will send carrier group to Mediterranean in support of Israel

WASHINGTON (AP)—Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said Sunday he has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel after the attack by Hamas that has left more than 1,000 dead on both sides. Americans were reported to be among those killed and missing.

The USS Gerald R. Ford, the Navy's newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, and its approximately 5,000 sailors and deck of warplanes will be accompanied by cruisers and destroyers in a show of force that is meant to be ready to respond to anything, from possibly interdicting additional weapons from reaching Hamas and conducting surveillance.

The large deployment reflects a U.S. desire to deter any regional expansion of the conflict. But the Israeli government formally declared war Sunday and gave the green light for "significant military steps" to retaliate against Hamas.

Preliminary reports indicate that at least four American citizens were killed in the attacks and an additional seven were missing and unaccounted for, according to a U.S. official. The numbers were in flux and could change as a fuller accounting is compiled, according to the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss initial reports received by the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem. Most, if not all, of those reported dead or missing are dual U.S.-Israeli citizens, the official said.

Along with the Ford the U.S. is sending the cruiser USS Normandy and destroyers USS Thomas Hudner, USS Ramage, USS Carney, and USS Roosevelt, and the U.S. is augmenting Air Force F-35, F-15, F-16, and A-10 fighter aircraft squadrons in the region.

"The U.S. maintains ready forces globally to further reinforce this deterrence posture if required," Austin said in a statement.

In addition, the Biden administration "will be rapidly providing the Israel Defense Forces with additional equipment and resources, including munitions. The first security assistance will begin moving today and arriving in the coming days," Austin said.

The Norfolk, Virginia-based carrier strike group(was already in the Mediterranean. Last week it was conducting naval exercises with Italy in the Ionian Sea. The carrier is in its first full deployment.

AP

The USS Gerald R. Ford, one of the world's largest aircraft carriers, arrives in Halifax on Oct. 28, 2022. The Pentagon has ordered the Ford carrier strike group to sail to the Eastern Mediterranean to be ready to assist Israel, two U.S. officials said Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

Senior officials from the Pentagon and State Department briefed senators Sunday night, and Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said they were assured that the United States was giving Israel "everything they need."

"I asked the representatives of our Defense Department if they are giving Israel everything they need, and I was heartened that they said yes and that they are surging support," the New York Democrat said in a statement after the unclassified briefing.

"I asked them if they have denied any requests that Israel has made, and they said no. I urged them to ensure Israel has everything it needs to protect itself, and reiterated that the Senate stands ready to deliver on additional needs," he said.

President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a telephone call Sunday, discussed "the taking of hostages by Hamas terrorists, including entire families, the elderly, and young children," according to a White House statement describing their conversation. Biden stressed that all countries "must stand united in the face of such brutal atrocities."

The president updated Netanyahu on U.S. diplomatic efforts and said additional assistance for Israeli forces was on the way, with more to come in the days ahead, the White House said.

They also discussed ways "to ensure that no enemies of Israel believe they can or should seek advantage from the current situation."

As part of the U.S. effort to deter further escalation, Secretary of State Antony Blinken spoke with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates on Sunday. In each call, he encouraged each country's "continued engagement" and "highlighted the United States' unwavering focus on halting the attacks by Hamas and securing the release of all hostages," department spokesperson Matthew Miller said in separate statements on the three calls.

In the U.S. House, leaders of the Foreign Affairs Committee were preparing a bipartisan resolution that says it "stands with Israel" and condemns "Hamas' brutal war." The resolution is expected to be among the first items considered for voting once the House elects a new speaker.

"Now is the time to show the world the United States firmly stands with our friend and ally Israel in our condemnation of this heinous attack by Iran-backed terrorists," said the committee chairman, Rep. Michael McCaul, R-Texas.

House business is currently at a standstill after the historic ouster of Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif.

Majority Republicans plan to kick off the selection process, in private, at a Tuesday evening forum where candidates can address their colleagues. The real contest could come as soon as Wednesday when the House next convenes.

ACROSS THE NATION

Tourism resumes in West Maui near Lahaina

HONOLULU (AP)—The area around the Maui town largely destroyed by wildfire two months ago began welcoming back travelers on Sunday after the mayor and Hawaii's governor pushed ahead to restart tourism to boost the economy despite opposition from some Lahaina residents. Five hotels in West Maui were accepting reservations again, according to their websites and the Maui Hotel and Lodging Association. In addition, eight timeshare properties—in which visitors have an ownership stake in their room—were opening across the region early this month, including some a few miles from the devastation. The reopening fell on the two-month anniversary of the wildfire that killed at least 98 people and destroyed more than 2,000 structures, many of them homes and apartments.

Newsom vetoes bill to make free condoms available to high school students

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—California Gov. Gavin Newsom rejected a bill on Sunday that would have made free condoms available all public high school students, arguing it was too expensive for a state with a budget deficit of more than $30 billion. California had about 1.9 million high school students enrolled in more than 4,000 schools last year, according to the California Department of Education. "This bill would create an unfunded mandate to public schools that should be considered in the annual budget process," Newsom wrote in a message explaining why he vetoed the bill, known as Senate bill 541.

Powerball jackpot up to $1.55 billion as lottery losing streak continues

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP)—The Powerball jackpot climbed to an estimated $1.55 billion after no one matched the game's six numbers Saturday and won the giant prize. The numbers drawn Saturday night were: 47, 54, 57, 60, 65 and red Powerball 19. The $1.55 billion prize is for a sole winner who is paid through an annuity, with annual checks over 30 years. Most jackpot winners opt for cash, which for the next drawing Monday night would be an estimated $679.8 million. The jackpot is now the world's fourth-largest lottery prize after rolling over for 34 consecutive drawings, since the last time someone won the top prize on July 19. That streak trails the record of 41 draws set in 2021 and 2022.

Autopsy rules an Atlanta church deacon's death during his arrest was a homicide

ATLANTA (AP)—An autopsy has found that the Aug. 10 death of a 62-year-old church deacon who was electrically shocked by an Atlanta police officer was a homicide, although the medical examiner found that heart disease also contributed to his death. Johnny Hollman became unresponsive while being arrested after a minor car crash. The officer shocked Hollman with an electrical stun gun and handcuffed him after Hollman refused to sign a traffic ticket. The city has since changed its policy to let officers write "refusal to sign" on a traffic ticket instead of arresting someone who won't sign. The policy requires officers to inform drivers that a signature is not an admission of guilt. It just acknowledges receipt of the ticket and court date.

1 killed and 8 wounded in shooting at Pennsylvania community center party

INDIANA, Pa. (AP)—One person was killed and eight were wounded in a shooting during a private party at a Pennsylvania community center early Sunday, authorities said. State police in Indiana County said troopers, local officers and emergency services responded at 12:35 a.m. Sunday to the shooting at the Chevy Chase Community Center in White Township, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of Pittsburgh. Nine people between the ages of 18 and 23 were shot, including a 22-year-old Pittsburgh man who died at the scene, police said. Lt. Col. George Bivens said investigators believe more than one shooter was involved but declined to say how many there were. "Dozens of gunshots were fired within the confines of the building," said Bivens, acknowledging later that "It may well be that we had a gunfight inside this building." Many fired shell casings and "multiple firearms" had been recovered, along with other evidence such as clothing and cellphones, he said.

At least 4 Americans killed in attacks against Israel, a US official says

WASHINGTON (AP)—Preliminary reports indicate at least 4 American citizens were killed in the attacks against Israel, a US official says.

Coast Guard: 3 rescued from capsized vessel off New Jersey coast

LITTLE EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—The Coast Guard says it has rescued three people without injury who were found clinging to the hull of a capsized vessel off the New Jersey coast. Officials said the operator of the 18-foot (5.5 meter) disabled vessel used a VHF-FM radio to contact the Coast Guard's Delaware Bay sector for help Saturday afternoon, saying the vessel was disabled and needed help getting to shore. The operator said three people were aboard and that his vessel was anchored in Great Bay in Little Egg Harbor Township less than a mile (kilometer) from the Great Bay Marina. Shortly after the initial call, the operator said his boat was going down because of inclement weather. Coast Guard officials said they rerouted an MH-65 Dolphin helicopter that was already in the air for routine training.

150-year-old Florida Keys lighthouse illuminated for first time in a decade

ISLAMORADA, Fla. (AP)—A 150-year-old beacon that helped guide ships through the treacherous Florida Keys coral reefs before GPS, sonar and other technology made it obsolete is shining again as part of a national effort to save historic lighthouses that have dotted the U.S. coast for more than a century. An Islamorada community group that is spending $6 million to restore and preserve the Alligator Reef Lighthouse turned on its new solar-powered lights on Saturday to remind the public about the effort.

Asia

Death toll from Afghanistan earthquake now at least 2K

AP

Afghan men search for victims after an earthquake in Zenda Jan district in Herat province, of western Afghanistan, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023.

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Men dug through rubble with their bare hands and shovels in western Afghanistan Sunday in desperate attempts to pull victims from the wreckage left by powerful earthquakes that killed at least 2,000 people.

Entire villages were flattened, bodies were trapped under collapsed houses and locals waited for help without even shovels to dig people out.

Living and dead, victims were trapped under rubble, their faces grey with dust. A government spokesman said Sunday that hundreds were still trapped, more than 1,000 hurt and more than 1,300 homes destroyed.

"Most people were shocked ... some couldn't even talk. But there were others who couldn't stop crying and shouting," photographer Omid Haqjoo, who visited four villages Sunday, told The Associated Press by phone from Afghanistan's fourth largest city, Herat.

Saturday's magnitude 6.3 earthquake hit a densely populated area near Herat. It was followed by strong aftershocks.

A Taliban government spokesman on Sunday provided the toll that, if confirmed, would make it one of the deadliest earthquakes to strike the country in two decades.

An earthquake that hit eastern Afghanistan in June 2022, striking a rugged, mountainous region, wiped out stone and mud-brick homes and killed at least 1,000 people.

People in Herat freed a baby girl from a collapsed building after she was buried up to her neck in debris. A hand cradled the baby's torso as rescuers eased the child out of the ground. Rescuers said it was the baby's mother. It was not clear if the mother survived. The video was shared online and verified by The Associated Press.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake's epicenter was

about 40 kilometers (25 miles) northwest of Herat. It was followed by three very strong aftershocks, measuring magnitude 6.3, 5.9 and 5.5, as well as lesser shocks.

With much of the world wary of dealing directly with the Taliban government and focused on the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, Afghanistan hasn't received an immediate global response. Almost 36 hours after the first earthquake hit Herat province, there have been no planes of aid flying in, no specialists.

Aid agencies and nongovernmental groups have appealed for the international community to come forward but only a handful of countries have publicly offered support, neighboring China and Pakistan among them.

The International Rescue Committee warned that the lack of rescue equipment could push up the death toll in western Afghanistan because trapped survivors cannot be freed.

"There's not much disaster management capacity and what there is can't cover people on the ground," said Salma Ben Aissa, the committee's country director for Afghanistan. "The numbers (of dead) are increasing hour by hour."

People injured in the quake on Saturday can't get the treatment they need because of poor medical infrastructure so they are losing their lives. A lack of food, shelter and clean water are increasing the health risks among communities.

Ben Aissa's colleague, Jawed Niamati, said Herat city is empty. People are sleeping in the open air, on roadsides and in parks, because they fear more quakes. Temperatures drop to 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees Fahrenheit) at night, he said.

The world rushed in aid after an earthquake rocked Syria and Turkey this year, killing tens of thousands of people.

Abdul Wahid Rayan, a spokesman at the Ministry of Information and Culture, said Sunday that hundreds of civilians were buried under the debris in Herat, and he called for urgent help.

At least a dozen teams have been scrambled to help with rescue efforts, including from the military and nonprofit organizations like the Red Crescent.

The United Nations migration agency deployed four ambulances with doctors and psychosocial support counselors to the regional hospital. At least three mobile health teams were on their way to the Zenda Jan district, which is one of the worst-hit areas.

Doctors Without Borders set up five medical tents at Herat Regional Hospital to accommodate up to 80 patients. Authorities have treated more than 300 patients, according to the agency. UNICEF dispatched thousands of supplies, including winter clothes, blankets and tarpaulins as temperatures dropped.

Irfanullah Sharafzai, a spokesman for the Afghan Red Crescent Society, said seven teams were busy with rescue efforts while others were arriving from eight nearby provinces. They set up a temporary camp for the displaced, Sharafzai said.

World

WITH OVER 1,100 DEAD IN FIGHTING SO FAR

Israel intensifies Gaza strikes

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel intensified its bombardments of the Gaza Strip on Monday after declaring war and vowing to destroy the "military and governing capabilities" of the enclave's Hamas rulers, as Israeli soldiers fought to dislodge Gaza gunmen from areas of southern Israel.

At least 700 people have reportedly been killed in Israel—a staggering toll on a scale the country has not experienced in decades—and more than 400 have been killed in Gaza. Palestinian militant groups claimed to be holding over 130 captives from the Israeli side.

More than two days after Hamas launched its unprecedented incursion out of Gaza, Israeli forces were still battling with militants holed up in several locations.

As Monday began, the military said it was fighting Hamas in "seven to eight" places in southern Israel.

Military spokesperson Richard Hecht said it was taking longer than expected to repel the incursion because there were still multiple breaches in the border, which Hamas could be using to bring in more fighters and weapons. "We thought this morning we'd be in a better place," Hecht said.

Meanwhile, Israel hit more than 1,000 targets in Gaza, its military said, including airstrikes that leveled much of the town of Beit Hanoun in the enclave's northeast corner.

Israeli Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari told reporters Hamas was using the town as a staging ground for attacks. There was no immediate word on casualties, and most of the community's population of tens of thousands likely fled beforehand.

"We will continue to attack in this way, with this force, continuously, on all gathering (places) and routes" used by Hamas, Hagari said.

The declaration of war portended greater fighting ahead, and a major question was whether Israel would launch a ground assault into Gaza, a move that in the past has brought intensified casualties. An Israeli military spokesperson said that the army had called up around 100,000 reservists, and said in a statement that Israel would aim to end Hamas' rule of Gaza.

"Our task is to make sure that Hamas will no longer have any military capabilities to threaten Israel with this," said spokesperson Jonathan Conricus in a video tweeted by Israel's military. "And in addition to that, we will make sure that Hamas is no longer able to govern the Gaza Strip."

After breaking through Israeli barriers with explosives at daybreak Saturday, the Hamas gunmen rampaged for hours, gunning down civilians and snatching people in towns, along highways and at a techno music festival attended by thousands in the desert. The rescue service Zaka said it removed about 260 bodies from the festival, and that number was expected to rise. It was not clear how many of those bodies were already included in Israel's overall toll.

The Israeli military estimated 1,000 Hamas fighters took part in Saturday's initial incursion. The high figure underscored the extent of planning by the militant group ruling Gaza, which has said it launched the attack in response to mounting Palestinian suffering under Israel's occupation and blockade of Gaza.

Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad group claimed to have taken captive more than 130 people from inside Israel and brought them into Gaza, saying they would be traded for the release of thousands of Palestinians imprisoned by Israel. The announcement, though unconfirmed, was the first sign of the scope of abductions.

The captives are known to include soldiers and civilians, including women, children and older adults, mostly Israelis but also some people of other nationalities. The Israeli military said only that the number of captives is "significant."

Civilians on both sides were already paying a high price. The Israeli military was evacuating at least five towns close to Gaza, while the U.N. more than 123,000 Gazans were displaced by the fighting.

Surge in rail traffic on North Korea-Russia border suggests arms supply to Russia, says think tank

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Recent satellite photos show a sharp increase in rail traffic along the North Korea-Russia border, indicating the North is supplying munitions to Russia, according to a U.S. think tank.

Speculation about a possible North Korean plan to refill Russia's munition stores drained in its protracted war with Ukraine flared last month, when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un traveled to Russia to meet President Vladimir Putin and visit key military sites. Foreign officials suspect Kim is seeking sophisticated Russian weapons technologies in return for the munitions to boost his nuclear program.

"Given that Kim and Putin discussed some military exchanges and cooperation at their recent summit, the dramatic increase in rail traffic likely indicates North Korea's supply of arms and munitions to Russia," Beyond Parallel, a website run by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, said in a report Friday.

"However, the extensive use of tarps to cover the shipping crates/containers and equipment makes it impossible to conclusively identify what is seen at the Tumangang Rail Facility" on the border, it said.

The report said satellite images as of Oct. 5 captured "a dramatic and unprecedented level of freight railcar traffic" at the Tumangang Rail Facility. It said images show approximately 73 railcars while a review of previous satellite images over the past five years shows about 20 railcars at this facility at most.

U.S. and South Korean officials have warned that North Korea and Russia would face consequences if they went ahead with the reported weapons transfer deal in violation with U.N. Security Council resolutions that ban all weapons trade involving North Korea.

Since last year, the U.S. has accused North Korea of providing ammunition, artillery shells and rockets to Russia, likely much of them copies of Soviet-era munitions. South Korean officials said North Korean weapons provided to Russia had already been used in Ukraine.

Overdrive

Toyota Camry shows off with XSE Hybrid

By MARC D. GRASSO
Boston Herald

You would think, experiencing one of the most purchased automobiles year after year would be something common every year, but actually, this is my first time driving it as a test vehicle. Entering Grasso's Garage this week, is the famous 2023 Toyota Camry. Wrapped in Cavalry Blue, which was a hit for many across the town, seemed to be the largest topic of conversation.

NUTS & BOLTS

- **MSRP**: $33,520
- **MPG**: 44 city / 47 highway / 46.4 as tested
- **As Tested**: $38,254

The best that Camry can deliver, this is huge in Grasso's Garage. Our XSE Hybrid tester delivered amazing fuel mileage, great exterior and interior appearance all while maintaining a good price. The 2023 Camry HSE Hybrid offers a very familiar brand-proven, 2.5L 4-cylinder with an electronically controlled variable transmission. The engine boasts a combined 208 horsepower and 149 lb-ft of torque.

We noticed a $1,760 navigation package included on our tester, that came with a Premium audio system and JBL speakers and subwoofer. Also a 9-inch center console protruding infotainment system was present which was easy to use and easy to utilize. A 10-inch color heads up display was also present.

The XSE is one of five model options in the Toyota Camry fleet and the fourth highest price in the list. The XSE focuses on exterior aesthetics, interior comfort and that same great hybrid powertrain that Toyota has perfected over the many years of excellence. For Camry and the 2023 XSE, this rocks. It really boasts a lot of usages, safety features, comfort, style and nice appearance. With Toyota and their endless chart-topping mass-market numbers, the Camry is no different; selling just under 300K in 2022 and 313K in 2021, according to Toyota. As the RAV4 is their best seller at just under 400K in sales in 2022, Camry is the second-best selling vehicle in the fleet and for good reason.

MARC GRASSO

2023 Toyota Camry XSE Hybrid.

US government seems ready to order a recall of millions of air bag inflators for safety concerns

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. government appears poised to order a recall of millions of air bag inflators due to a manufacturing flaw that could send metal shrapnel rocketing through a car's interior.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration held a public hearing Thursday to field commentary and testimony on inflators made by ARC Automotive Inc. of Knoxville, Tennessee, which supplies the devices to air bag makers and several major auto companies. At least 25 million vehicles containing ARC-made air bags could be affected.

At the heart of the issue is a metal inflator canister inside the airbag device. The government contends that a crucial flaw could cause this canister to "rupture" upon impact. Instead of releasing pressurized gas to inflate the air bag, the canister essentially explodes, sending metal shrapnel into the vehicle at head height.

"These injuries can be gruesome and can happen in crashes where otherwise the individual would have walked away from the crash unharmed," Bruce York of NHTSA's Office of Defects Investigation said.

Another NHTSA official, Sharon Yukevich, said the continued presence of the inflators was "an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death to vehicle occupants."

She added, "The data and evidence suggests that this will happen again. The timing is unpredictable."

In May the agency asked ARC to recall the inflators, which it says are responsible for at least seven injuries and two deaths in the United States and Canada since 2009. ARC has refused to issue a full-scale recall, setting the stage for the possible court fight.

NHTSA announced last month it had made an initial decision that the inflators made by ARC and under license by another company are defective. Thursday's hearing was one of the final steps before the agency can issue a formal recall order and take the case to court for enforcement.

Initially NHTSA said that an estimated 67 million inflators should be recalled, but it revised the number to 52 million due to manufacturer responses in its investigation that overcounted the number.

Neither NHTSA nor ARC nor the automakers have released a full list of car models with the inflators.

The company maintains that no safety defect exists, that NHTSA's demand is based on a hypothesis rather than technical conclusions, and that the agency has no authority to order a parts manufacturer, rather than a vehicle manufacturer, to announce recalls.

"The safety of the motoring public is the cornerstone of our business," said Steve Gold, ARC's vice-president of product integrity. "Any personal injury or loss of life is a serious matter."

But Gold said the company had concluded that the examples being cited by NHTSA were "isolated incidents and are not indicative of systemic defect."

He said the government would be setting a dangerous precedent by targeting a parts supplier rather than a vehicle manufacturer in ordering a recall. Gold also denied NHTSA's contention that his company had not fully cooperated with the agency's investigation, saying it had submitted "tens of thousands of documents" as requested.

The hearing also featured emotional testimony from Jacob Tarvis, whose mother, Marlene Beaudoin, died as a result of an exploding air bag inflator in 2021.

Washer fluid leaves driver out in the cold

MOTORMOUTH

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide *and* Consumers Digest. *Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.*

Q: The most important thing I have to say is that I really appreciate your column. I know I'm an ancient engineer and I've done minor and major maintenance on our cars for over 60 years. But life keeps changing and the education from your column helps me understand today's automotive technology. I have a question and a comment that maybe you can help me understand or address. Where we live the winter temperatures frequently go below zero degrees. In the spring and summer, there is a huge "big box retailer" that sells a windshield washer solution that freezes at 32 degrees. My problem with their approach is that it often takes many months for a windshield washer reservoir to go through a complete change of fluid, and I've had friends who complained about their wiper fluid freezing on their windshield. My opinion is that they shouldn't sell the stuff that freezes at 32F.

A: Summer blend washer fluid is less concentrated stuff. It has less alcohol mixed with the blue water. As winter approaches, add a bottle of concentrate stuff that depresses the freezing point. It is available at your friendly big box or auto parts store. Whatever you do, do not put antifreeze in your washer reservoir.

■■■

Q: I own a 2017 Kia Sorento, which has been serviced by my regular mechanic since I bought it new. All oil changes and routine repairs have been done by this mechanic, who my family has used for several years. Recently, the mechanic found oil seepage in the timing chain cover and verified a leak with a dye test. This expensive repair is under warranty, so I took the car to the dealer where I bought it, and the service department there used the same dye test but could not find a leak. The dealer won't fix a leak it says it can't find. Who should I believe, my trusted mechanic or the dealer?

DREAMSTIME

Summer blend washer fluid is less concentrated stuff. It has less alcohol mixed with the blue water. As winter approaches, add a bottle of concentrate stuff that depresses the freezing point.

A: Ask to see the results of the dealer's dye test, preferably first-hand. That may be unlikely because they may not allow customers in the shop area. Alternatively, ask your favorite mechanic to take a photo. Show the photo to the service writer and ask if they have any similar proof.

■■■

Q: I have a 2006 Jeep Commander with 80,000 miles. I've had an issue with one of the TPMS sensors. Is there a way to turn it off or reset it? The notice on the dashboard is distracting.

A: You can neither turn off the tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) nor reset a failed sensor. Replace the faulty sensor.

■■■

Q: I have a 2003 BMW Z4 which I only drive during nice weather. In the winter it is stored inside. When I purchased the vehicle, I bought new 50,000-mile tires. So far, I have driven around 30,000 miles. I took my car to a different mechanic and he recommended buying four new tires. Taking the car back to my original mechanic, he stated that the two front tires were just fine but two rear were showing wear. Do I need to replace all four or can I rotate the two front to the rear?

A: Your BMW is rear drive, not all-wheel-drive, so you need not replace all four tires. Yes, you can rotate the tire front to back. I suggest crisscrossing the front tires as you move them to the back. Move the tires that propel the car straight to the front.

Life & Style

‘The Exorcist: Believer’ takes possession of box office with $27.2M opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)—”The Exorcist: Believer” drove out all foes at the box office, but its numbers didn’t entirely make heads spin.

Facing competition from no major new releases, the latest resurrection of the demonic franchise brought in $27.2 million in North America in its opening weekend for Universal Pictures and Blumhouse Productions, according to studio estimates Sunday.

That was more than the weekend take of the next three films combined. But while it nearly earned back its reported budget of $30 million in just a few days, the take for “The Exorcist: Believer” was underwhelming after the two companies paid $400 million in 2021 for the rights to a new trilogy.

Last week’s top film, “ Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie,” was a distant second, with $11.8 million, and has earned $38.9 million after two weekends for Paramount Pictures. Another horror sequel, “Saw X,” was third for Lionsgate Films, with $8.2 million, and has brought in $32.6 million after two weekends.

Horror films made up four of the top 10, and they could see some sustained numbers as Halloween comes closer.

“It seems like the demand for the horror genre by audiences is never ending,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. “The communal theater experience is tailor-made for it.”

The new “Exorcist” was released just shy of the 50th anniversary of the original horror classic, and it comes just two months after the death of the original film’s director, William Friedkin.

UNIVERSAL PICTURES VIA AP

This image released by Universal Pictures shows Lidya Jewett, left, and Olivia O'Neill in a scene from "The Exorcist: Believer."

Directed by David Gordon Green, who has become a legacy sequel specialist after helming a trilogy of “Halloween” films, “The Exorcist: Believer” stars “Hamilton” actor Leslie Odom Jr., with Lidya Jewett as his 13-year-old daughter.

The film got poor reviews—managing a critics score of just 23% on Rotten Tomatoes. Jake Coyle of The Associated Press was more charitable than most in his review, giving it two stars out of four for its lead performances and sure-handed direction but saying it “never manages anything like the deep terror of the original.”

The release of “The Exorcist” was moved up a week to avoid competing with the juggernaut of next weekend’s concert film, “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour.”

“I think they made a good call actually,” Dergarabedian said. “All the oxygen is going to be sucked out of the room.”

The storm of Swifties in cinemas could make for a $100 million weekend and set several new precedents for concert movies.

“This is on an order of magnitude beyond anything we’ve seen,” Dergarabedian said.

The weekend finally saw “Barbie” fall from the box office top 10 for the first time since its July 21 release, after well over $600 million in domestic earnings and more than $1.3 billion globally.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

21 Savage cleared to legally travel abroad with plans of international performance in London

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper 21 Savage can now legally travel outside the United States and plans to make his international performance in his native London. Savage's lawyer, Charles Kuck, told The Associated Press in a statement Friday that his client has officially become a permanent U.S. resident and may now go overseas. He cleared a major traveling hurdle after being taken into custody by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in Georgia in 2019. Kuck said the Grammy winner followed "all applicable immigration laws since his initial detention by ICE." "His immigration court proceedings have now been terminated and he is a lawful permanent resident of the United States with the freedom to travel internationally," Kuck said. Savage, 30, whose given name is She'yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, spent 10 days in a detention center in southern Georgia before his release. He was arrested in a targeted operation over his visa, which expired in 2006.

Las Vegas police video shows first-ever arrest in rapper Tupac Shakur's 1996 killing

LAS VEGAS (AP)—The man charged with murder in the 1996 killing of Tupac Shakur knew the gravity of his arrest last week near his home on the outskirts of Las Vegas, according to police body camera footage released Friday. "So what they got you for, man?" an officer asks Duane "Keffe D" Davis. "Biggest case in Las Vegas history," Davis says, recounting the date that Shakur was gunned down—"September 7th, 1996." Police and prosecutors allege Davis was the mastermind behind the drive-by shooting near the Las Vegas Strip that killed Shakur at the age of 25. Now, more than 27 years later, Davis was handcuffed around the wrists and in ankle shackles in the backseat of Las Vegas police car headed toward a county jail, where he remains held without bond. "I ain't worried," Davis told the officer. "I ain't did (expletive)." The police videos, totaling more than an hour of footage, show Davis arrested around sunrise on Sept. 29 while walking in his otherwise quiet neighborhood.

YNW Melly murder trial delayed after defense attorneys accuse prosecutors of withholding information

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)—Defense attorneys for rapper YNW Melly say South Florida prosecutors committed felony obstruction of justice by not revealing that the lead detective in the rapper's double-murder case had been previously accused of being willing to lie as he gathered evidence. Attorneys for Melly, whose legal name is Jamell Demons, on Friday asked Broward Circuit Judge John J. Murphy to remove the Broward State Attorney's Office from the case and potentially dismiss it entirely, the Sun Sentinel reported. Jury selection in the retrial of the 24-year-old rapper was set to start next week, but the judge pushed it back a week on Friday and set hearings for next week to deal with the obstruction allegations. The request from the defense attorneys comes after Assistant State Attorney Michelle Boutros, who works for the Broward office, testified Friday that she overheard Miramar Police Detective Mark Moretti, lead investigator in the case against Demons, ask a Broward County deputy to lie about being present when Moretti executed a search warrant outside his jurisdiction last October, forcibly seizing a phone from Demons' mother as part of a witness tampering investigation.

A nurse is named as the prime suspect in the mysterious death of the Nigerian Afrobeat star Mohbad

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)—A nurse was identified on Friday as the "principal suspect" in the mysterious death of a Nigerian Afrobeat star, which triggered dayslong protests by thousands demanding justice.

Investigations into the death of Ilerioluwa Aloba, better known as MohBad, in the commercial hub of Lagos have pointed to the nurse who treated the late singer before his death, Lagos police chief Idowu Owohunwa told reporters on Friday. The nurse was invited to treat Aloba for an unknown illness at his Lagos residence where she "administered three different injections which are believed to have occasioned the chain of reactions that directly resulted in the death of the singer," Owohunwa said. The nurse is in custody, but there has been no arraignment and no formal charges have been brought.

Husband’s family largely absent from kids’ lives

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have two children and live close to my family. We spend lots of quality time with them, and they are invested in our children’s lives, as we are in theirs. The same is not true of my in-laws. The first few years I would FaceTime and call, trying to build a relationship. Eventually, I realized I was the only one making an effort, so I stopped calling, which means there are no more calls.

The first cousin on my husband’s side is due to give birth, and my husband wants to skip my nephew’s first birthday party for her gender reveal party. My argument is, they have put no effort into our lives or our kids, so why would we miss an event for people who do. His argument is that they don’t ask for much and we see them only twice a year, so we should just go. Help!

EASY DECISION IN MINNESOTA

DEAR EASY DECISION: Not only do his relatives not ask for much, but they give absolutely nothing. Rather than argue about this, attend your nephew’s first birthday party and tell your husband to go to the gender reveal. Problem solved.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman who was born with cerebral palsy. As such, I struggle to run or walk at the same pace as others do, and I have an uneven sense of balance when carrying things. For my entire childhood, my parents insisted those around me treat me as if nothing was wrong.

I hope to become more independent (driving, college and the like), and sometimes I worry the physical strain will be too much for me. How do I swallow my pride and ask for some guidance? Who should I talk to?

NOT READY TO REACH OUT

DEAR NOT READY: Asking for guidance should not involve swallowing your pride. Everyone has limitations in one area or another. One excellent place to look for guidance would be the student health center at the college you would be attending; another would be the Cerebral Palsy Foundation (yourcpf.org). Having the good sense to ask for help isn’t a sign of weakness; it’s a sign of strength and intelligence.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My friend dresses like a slob. We were on a cruise and went to dine in one of the upscale restaurants on the ship. Because she was wearing jean shorts and an old, faded T-shirt, we were asked to leave. We will be going on another cruise soon, and I’m concerned she will do this again. Any advice for our next cruise so this won’t happen?

EMBARRASSED IN ALABAMA

DEAR EMBARRASSED: Before the next cruise, ask your friend what she plans to bring with her. Remind her that you had to leave the upscale restaurant because she wasn’t properly dressed, and suggest she bring a dress or skirt and blouse on the next trip “so neither of you will be embarrassed or inconvenienced.” Most cruise lines have a dress code that spells out what attire is required. If your friend checks the website of the carrier, she can easily determine what to bring.

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby’s most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HERE'S ANOTHER AD WITH ATTITUDE.
THIS GUY DIDN'T LIKE HIS JOB, SO HE QUIT, AND NOW HE CLIMBS ROCKS! SEE. HE'S HIS OWN MAN! HE GRABS LIFE BY THE THROAT AND LIVES ON HIS OWN TERMS!
IF HE QUIT HIS JOB, I WONDER HOW HE AFFORDS THOSE EXPENSIVE ATHLETIC SHOES HES ADVERTISING.
MAYBE HIS MOM BOUGHT THEM FOR HIM.
I HOPE SHE'LL PAY HIS MEDICAL BILLS WHEN HE FALLS OFF THAT ROCK.

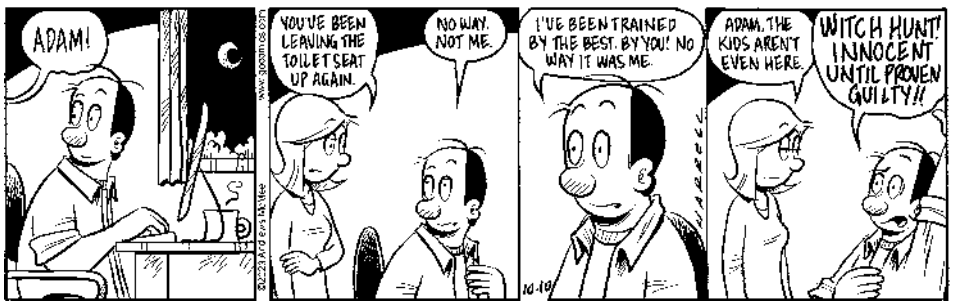
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I HAVE A GOOD FEELING ABOUT TODAY
THE ICE CREAM TRUCK AND THE PIZZA DELIVERY VAN BROKE DOWN!
RIGHT IN FRONT OF OUR HOUSE!
JIM DAVIS 10-10

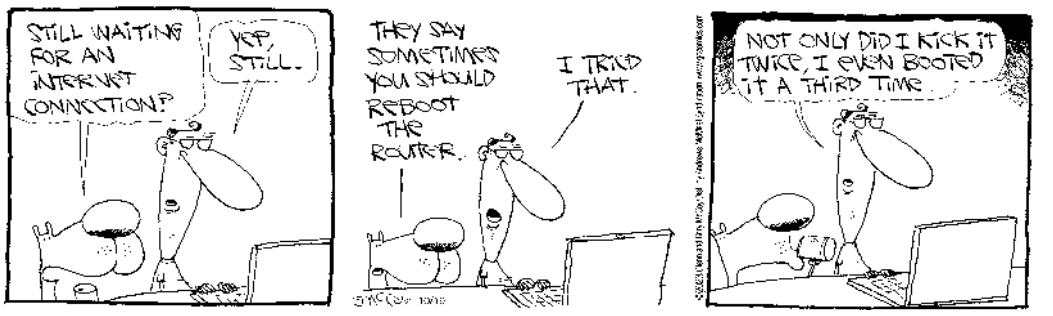
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


ADAM!
YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING THE TOILET SEAT UP AGAIN.
NO WAY. NOT ME.
I'VE BEEN TRAINED BY THE BEST. BY YOU! NO WAY IT WAS ME.
ADAM, THE KIDS AREN'T EVEN HERE.
WITCH HUNT! INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY!!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


STILL WAITING FOR AN INTERNET CONNECTION?
YEP, STILL.
THEY SAY SOMETIMES YOU SHOULD REBOOT THE ROUTER.
I TRIED THAT.
NOT ONLY DID I KICK IT TWICE, I EVEN BOOTED IT A THIRD TIME.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

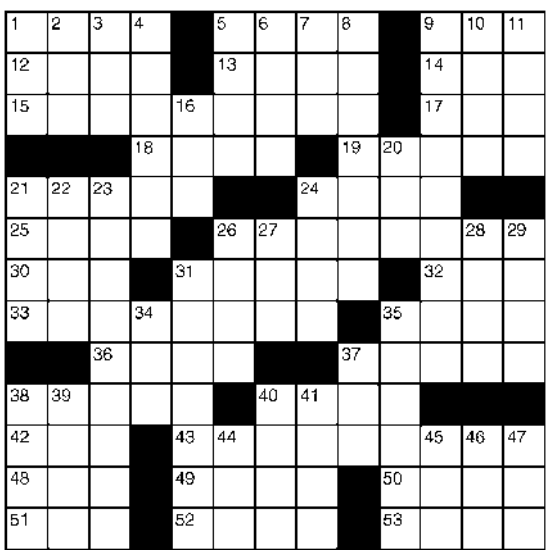
ACROSS
1 Rocker Clapton
5 See to
9 "Sheesh!"
12 "Mona —"
13 Pulitzer winner James
14 "Aladdin" monkey
15 "Superb!"
17 Free (of)
18 Sorts
19 Wallpaper adhesive
21 Makeup brand
24 Apiece
25 Tale teller
26 Escalade, for one
30 Mess up
31 Lost cause
32 In the manner of
33 Land next to Nigeria
35 Elitist
36 Exam format
37 Peaks of Peru
38 Indian tea region
40 Baby's word
42 "Evita" narrator
43 Tequila cocktail
48 Rebellion leader Turner
49 Writer Rice
50 Make a scarf
51 Asner and Harris
52 Antique cars
53 "Ditto"

DOWN
1 Stately tree
2 Estuary
3 Leb. neighbor
4 Pricey toast topper
5 Chat
6 Conceits
7 Modern, to Mann
8 Woe
9 Everglades
10 Slightly
11 Undressed
16 English cathedral city
20 Oft-torn knee part, for short
21 Actor Guinness
22 Former Italian money
23 Small monkeys
24 Paradise
26 "Neato!"
27 Year in Cancún
28 Medicinal plant
29 Uber competitors
31 Grade school topic
34 Geological period
35 Lewis Carroll creatures
37 Oklahoma city
38 Skin breakout
39 Roe provider
40 Bond foe
41 Mellows
44 Hydrocarbon ending
45 Chef Garten
46 Country singer McGraw
47 Packed away

Solution time: 22 mins.

T	O	R	U	■	A	I	L	■	D	E	N	T
A	L	A	N	A	L	D	A	■	E	L	I	E
T	R	O	U	I	I	A	S	■	V	A	N	R
■	■	■	S	R	A	■	T	O	N	E	S	■
A	C	M	E	S	■	C	N	E	T	■	■	■
I	A	I	D	■	I	F	A	D	F	R	S	■
E	L	L	■	P	A	L	M	S	■	E	A	T
■	F	O	R	S	F	E	■	A	F	R	O	■
■	■	■	A	R	A	B	■	C	L	L	I	E
H	E	D	W	I	G	■	I	S	M	■	■	■
O	T	O	E	■	N	I	C	H	O	L	A	S
S	A	N	G	■	A	R	K	A	N	S	A	S
S	T	A	G	■	S	K	Y	■	D	U	S	T

Yesterday's answer 10-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jodi Lyn O'Keefe, 45; Mario Lopez, 50; Wendi McLendon-Covey, 54; Nora Roberts, 73.

Happy Birthday: Designate time and energy to help a cause or to rectify a concern you want to amend. Refuse to let domestic situations interfere with your purpose. A couple of financial adjustments will put your mind at ease and encourage you to restructure what's essential and how you plan to do your part. Don't waste energy on people or situations that don't fit your plans. Prioritize. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 29, 31, 36, 42.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Listen, assess and move along. Don't waste time on someone or something that has no future. Look for solid opportunities and put a contract that protects you, your ideas and your long-term goals in place. When opportunity knocks, open the door. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't share too much information. Mull over what you hear, verify facts and use what you learn to secure your position. Follow your heart and take advantage of an opportunity that offers a shift in how you use your skills to dominate the competition. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Making moves based on emotion will leave you confused. Think before you put more energy into restructuring your lifestyle and professional goals by picking up knowledge and skills to help you advance. Networking functions will reveal what's available. Protect against illness or injury. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Stick to what you know and do best. An unexpected offer will put you at ease and help you decide where or how you choose to live. A change will offer security and prompt you to spend less time with people who don't have your best interests in mind. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Concentrate on detail and expense involved before making a move, investment or contractual shift. Get your facts straight and find out if any updated information can help you make a difference in how well you communicate and get along with others. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take a look at your current situation and consider the changes that will rectify whatever isn't working for you. Find a unique way to use your money and skills to make a difference in where or how you live. Make a meaningful relationship a priority. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Put on your adult pants and make a stance. How you use your skills and connections to make your community better will have a stabilizing effect on what matters to you. Participation will capture attention and encourage others to do their part. ✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Revisit your options, choose and follow through. Express your desires, and don't back down under pressure. Change is necessary, but it must align with your long-term plans. Refuse to let anyone railroad you into something you do not want. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take the path that offers the freedom to follow your heart's desire. Refuse to let anyone infringe on you or your plans. Use your intellect to pick and choose who you confide in and what you pursue. Don't let personal issues collide with financial stability. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Take inventory before taking on something new. Don't fall for someone's investment plan. Stick to what you know and do your own thing. Build a strong base, make changes at home conducive to your needs and empower yourself. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Reach for the stars. Believe in yourself and structure your day to elaborate on a plan that supports saving, improved lifestyle and contractual protection. Don't let someone interfere or enforce changes on you that aren't necessary or in your best interest. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Your discipline will pay off. Look for an opportunity to partner with someone who can fill in the blanks regarding the skills or experience you lack so that you can focus on what you do best. Put everything in writing to avoid setbacks. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are talkative, forceful and changeable. You are unique and assertive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					4			7
				7			3	6
9	2		3		6		4	8
	8		7		3		5	
7					2	4	8	
		1			5			
	1			4	7	8	2	3
		8	6	2	1			
2		9	5	3				4

Difficulty: ★★ 10/10

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

3	9	6	1	7	5	2	8	4
4	5	2	8	9	3	7	1	6
8	1	7	6	2	4	9	3	5
5	7	9	2	3	8	4	6	1
1	8	4	9	6	7	3	5	2
2	6	3	4	5	1	8	7	9
6	4	8	3	1	2	5	9	7
7	2	1	5	8	9	6	4	3
9	3	5	7	4	6	1	2	8

Difficulty: ★ 12/9

©2025 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

QUASH IT! Solution: 10 letters

E	E	G	R	A	H	C	S	I	D	E	L	E	T	E
Y	O	R	T	S	E	D	T	C	A	R	T	E	R	C
E	X	T	E	X	T	R	A	C	T	R	O	B	A	H
S	T	O	P	A	B	O	L	I	S	H	R	I	S	E
R	H	E	E	D	I	S	M	I	S	S	T	I	H	C
E	L	S	Z	V	N	O	W	A	L	U	N	N	A	K
V	A	N	I	E	O	A	C	Y	F	I	L	L	U	N
E	O	B	R	N	E	M	M	A	F	G	B	E	E	W
R	D	I	S	E	A	R	E	R	N	R	X	G	E	O
E	N	U	D	O	V	B	F	R	E	C	A	L	L	D
D	I	S	A	L	L	O	W	A	I	T	E	I	I	P
N	C	S	P	O	R	V	K	S	E	H	N	L	X	M
I	S	L	C	B	E	O	E	E	O	D	N	U	E	A
H	E	K	I	T	F	E	L	U	R	R	E	V	O	L
H	R	D	O	F	A	X	E	D	U	L	C	N	O	C

© 2025 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 10/10

Abolish, Abort, Absolve, Annul, Axe, Banish, Block, Break Off, Cancel, Check, Clamp Down, Conclude, Countermand, Delete, Destroy, Disallow, Discharge, Dismiss, Excise, Exile, Expel, Extract, Finish, Forbid, Freeze, Help, Hinder, Law, Negate, Nullify, Omit, Overrule, Recall, Remove, Rescind, Retract, Reverse, Revoke, Stop, Tort, Trash, Undo, Veto, Void

Yesterday's Answer: Exoplanet

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Rangers beat Orioles 11-8 to go up 2-0 in ALDS

AP

Texas Rangers' Mitch Garver drops his bat after hitting a grand slam during the third inning in Game 2 of an American League Division Series baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE (AP)—Bruce Bochy is rolling through another postseason where everything he tries seems to work.

Mitch Garver hit a third-inning grand slam in his first appearance of these playoffs, and the Texas Rangers won their fourth consecutive game to start the postseason, pushing the Baltimore Orioles to the brink of elimination with an 11-8 victory in Game 2 of the AL Division Series on Sunday.

The wild-card Rangers have outscored the Orioles and Tampa Bay—the top two teams in the American League in the regular season—by 25-11. Bochy moved within one win of his first AL Championship Series as a manager. He reached that round four times in the National League, winning three World Series titles with San Francisco.

"It's kind of hard to read the emotion on him because sometimes he looks like he's folded up in a lawn chair sitting there watching the game," Garver said. "But yes, we trust his decisions and the way he manages the game."

Gunnar Henderson and Aaron Hicks homered for the AL East champion Orioles, who haven't been swept in a series of at least two games since May 2022. They're now in danger of doing that at a most inopportune time.

Hicks drove in five runs, including a three-run shot with one out in the ninth. But it was too little, too late.

Texas fell behind for the first time this postseason when the Orioles scored two runs in the first, but the Rangers answered with five in the second to knock out rookie Grayson Rodriguez. Garver, a backup catcher who hadn't played yet in the 2023 playoffs, hit his grand slam for a 9-2 lead.

"He can hit, and he's done a great job this year for us," Bochy said. "So gave him the start today. Got a pitch he could handle. He's got big power, and that's big at that point in the game. Really was the difference in the game."

Garver came up again with the bases loaded in the fifth but hit into a double play. Even that brought home another run.

Garver was in the lineup as the designated hitter because it was "just time to get him out there"—to quote Bochy pregame. He hit .270 with 19 home runs in 87 games this year.

The 68-year-old manager was rewarded for that move, and there were plenty of other contributors for the Rangers.

Corey Seager became the first player to walk five times in a postseason game and scored twice. Baltimore pitchers walked 11, their most in a game since 2019, and six of those runners scored.

Texas became the first team in postseason history with seven hits and seven walks through three innings, according to Sportradar.

Hicks, who missed a key sign in the ninth inning of Game 1, poked a bases-loaded single to right field in the first. But the bottom of the Texas batting order barely gave the Camden Yards crowd time to feel hopeful.

A walk, a single and a two-run double by No. 9 hitter Leody Taveras tied the game. Marcus Semien grounded out to the pitcher, with first baseman Ryan Mountcastle needing to make a diving snag of Rodriguez's wild throw. After a walk to Seager, Garver hit a dribbler in front of the plate that brought home a run, and he beat it out when Rodriguez—perhaps spooked by his poor toss earlier—lobbed the ball weakly to first.

Adolis García hit an RBI single up the middle, and Jonah Heim added a run-scoring single one out later to make it 5-2 and chase Rodriguez.

Danny Coulombe got out of the second for Baltimore, but Bryan Baker walked the bases loaded with one out in the third. Then Jacob Webb came in and allowed his second homer of the series—the drive by Garver that carried past the big wall at Camden Yards that the Orioles pushed back before the 2022 season.

"It's a good offense, and it's been a really good offense all year, but we also walked 11 of them," Baltimore manager Brandon Hyde said. "You're not doing yourself any favors by putting that much traffic out there."

Neither starting pitcher made it through the fifth. Cody Bradford got the win in relief of Jordan Montgomery, tossing 3 2/3 scoreless innings.

Rodriguez took the loss. He was one of baseball's top prospects at the beginning of the season and posted a 2.58 ERA after the All-Star break, but he allowed five runs, six hits and four walks Sunday.

Down 9-2, the Orioles scored twice in the fourth on Mateo's RBI single and Mountcastle's sacrifice fly. Henderson's solo homer in the fifth made it 10-5.

Mateo had four hits, including two doubles.

"We just came up a little bit short today, but that built a lot of momentum going into the next game," outfielder Austin Hays said. "Nobody laid down. We didn't give away any at-bats. We continued to fight. We were able to get into their bullpen and work on those guys a little bit. I feel good moving forward, but we know we've got our work cut out for us."

Baltimore has lost seven straight postseason games. The Orioles were swept by Kansas City in the 2014 ALCS, then dropped a winner-take-all game at Toronto as a wild card in 2016.

In a throwback to the pre-pitch clock era, this nine-inning game took 3 hours, 45 minutes.

The Braves, Orioles, Rays, Dodgers and Brewers had the five best records in baseball this year. They've gone 0-8 in the postseason so far, with Tampa Bay and Milwaukee already eliminated.

TWINS 6, ASTROS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Carlos Correa had three hits and three RBIs and Pablo López pitched seven shutout innings, helping the Minnesota Twins beat the Houston Astros 6-2 on Sunday night in Game 2 of their AL Division Series.

Kyle Farmer hit a two-run homer for the Twins, who bounced back nicely after losing 6-4 in the series opener on Saturday night.

Game 3 of the best-of-five series is at Minnesota on Tuesday.

Correa, an October star for so many years in Houston, has returned to the postseason with a vengeance after lamenting how much he missed the playoffs when Minnesota stumbled last year in his first season with the Twins.

Correa hit an RBI double in the first inning in Game 2. He added a two-run single to center in the fifth, lifting the Twins to a 5-0 lead. He also robbed Jeremy Peña of a hit with a terrific defensive play for the final out.

Correa has eight hits and four RBIs in four games this postseason, helping the Twins to three playoff wins.

López pitched a gem after leading the Twins to the victory in Game 1 of the Wild Card Series. He yielded six hits and struck out seven while lowering his ERA to 0.71 this postseason.

He kept the Astros off balance with a fastball that averaged 95.9 MPH, slightly up from his season average.

Yordan Alvarez, who homered twice in Houston's win in Game 1, cut the lead to 6-2 with a two-run shot in the eighth inning. But Jhoan Duran pitched a perfect ninth for Minnesota.

The Astros had to hold off a Twins rally in the series opener, but they played from behind throughout Game 2.

Willi Castro hit a leadoff single in the second for the Twins, and Farmer followed with a 377-foot drive to left-center against Framber Valdez. The homer was Farmer's first postseason hit after going 0 for 10 in eight career games.

Valdez departed after Correa's clutch swing in the fifth. He was charged with five runs and seven hits in 4 1/3 innings.

Correa's two-run single gave him 63 career RBIs in the playoffs, tying David Justice for third-most in MLB history. He celebrated by pounding his chest and shouting "Let's go," before pointing to his ecstatic dugout.

Correa received a smattering of boos from the home crowd each time he stepped to the plate. It was a stark change from the adoration he long received at Minute Maid Park in seven seasons with the Astros after being selected first overall in the 2012 amateur draft.

A day after hitting three home runs, the Astros had trouble stringing anything together against López.

Their best chance to score against the right-hander came in the fourth. Kyle Tucker walked with one out and moved to second on a groundout by José Abreu. Michael Brantley lined a single to left field to send Tucker to third, but López struck out Chas McCormick to end the threat.

Edouard Julien drove in a run with a single in the seventh inning to push the lead to 6-0.

The defending champion Astros entered Sunday's game 12-0 at Minute Maid Park in the ALDS since 2017, and the loss is their first at home in the Division Series since Game 4 in 2015.

The retractable roof at Minute Maid was open Sunday night for just the second time all season. Houston manager Dusty Baker said the decision to open it was made by the league.

After a brutal summer, temperatures have dipped this week in Houston. It was 73 degrees at first pitch.

Eppler resigns as Mets GM; source says under investigation by MLB

NEW YORK (AP)—Billy Eppler resigned as New York Mets general manager Thursday, and a person familiar with the probe said he is under investigation by Major League Baseball.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the investigation.

The person did not disclose the nature of the probe, but the New York Post was first to report Thursday that Eppler is being investigated by MLB for improper use of the injured list.

His surprising resignation came three days after David Stearns was hired above Eppler as the Mets' first president of baseball operations. Eppler spent the past two seasons running baseball operations for New York in his role as GM.

The Mets said they could not comment because it's an ongoing investigation.

Eppler's decision to step down continues an overhaul that followed a fourth-place NL East finish for a team with playoff expectations and World Series aspirations. Mets owner Steve Cohen fired manager Buck Showalter on Sunday, saying Stearns deserved to bring in his own manager.

"I wanted David to have a clean slate and that meant me stepping down," Eppler said in a statement released by the team.

Cohen had long talked about hiring a president of baseball operations above Eppler and had said baseball operations leadership had become too large a job for one person. Eppler attended the Monday news conference at Citi Field to introduce Stearns, who discussed working in tandem with Eppler.

"Billy and I have had I think a really nice relationship going back years as competitors. Talking to each other, whether it's about transactions or just about industry events," said Stearns, the former Milwaukee Brewers boss who also held front-office positions in Houston and Cleveland. "I have a lot of respect for the experience he has in this game, the experience he has in New York, and I'm looking forward to working with him."

But just a few days later, Eppler is out.

"He decided it is in everyone's best interest to fully hand over the leadership of baseball operations to David Stearns," Cohen said in a statement.

Mahomes, Kelce lead Chiefs past Vikings, 27-20

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) ,Patrick Mahomes threw two touchdown passes in the third quarter, one to Travis Kelce after the All-Pro tight end briefly left the game with an ankle injury, and the Kansas City Chiefs beat the Minnesota Vikings 27-20 on Sunday.

Mahomes went 31 for 41 for 281 yards and no turnovers in his most efficient performance of the season for the defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs (4-1), who once again won while not at their best.

Kirk Cousins threw for scores to Jordan Addison and Alexander Mattison for the Vikings (1-4). They had two chances at the tying touchdown in the final five minutes, but a late hamstring injury to star wide receiver Justin Jefferson and a lack of timeouts from earlier mismanagement of the game were ultimately too much to overcome.

Jefferson slipped on the turf while trying to make a cut on his route during a third-down pass deep in Kansas City territory. He grabbed the back of his right leg and limped slowly to the sideline.

Mahomes hit Justin Watson with a 33-yard heave on third-and-18 from his own 17 to extend the Chiefs' first possession of the second half. The two-time MVP finished that drive with a tiebreaking 8-yard scoring toss to Rashee Rice.

All four of Minnesota's losses have come by eight points or fewer this year after a record 11 wins in 11 one-score games in 2022.

AP

Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce (87) celebrates with teammate quarterback Patrick Mahomes, left, after catching a 4-yard touchdown pass during the second half of an NFL football game against the Minnesota Vikings, Sunday, Oct. 8, 2023, in Minneapolis.

49ERS 42, COWBOYS 10

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Brock Purdy threw three of his four touchdown passes to George Kittle and San Francisco extended its dominance over Dallas.

The Niners led 14-0 before the Cowboys (3-2) got their initial first down and were never really threatened on the way to matching a franchise record with their 15th straight regular-season win and earning their fifth 5-0 start.

Purdy calmly picked apart the league's stingiest defense to improve to 10-0 as a starter in the NFL and San Francisco's defense made life difficult on Dak Prescott all night.

Prescott was sacked three times and heaved an interception into double coverage after Dallas fell behind 28-10 in the third quarter. He threw two more interceptions in the fourth quarter.

It was Dallas' most lopsided defeat since losing 49-17 to New Orleans in 2013.

JAGUARS 25, BILLS 20

LONDON (AP)—Travis Etienne rushed for 136 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns, and Jacksonville beat jet-lagged Buffalo at Tottenham Hotspur Stadium.

The Jaguars (3-2) won back-to-back games in London, ended Buffalo's three-game winning streak and proved they can hang with an AFC powerhouse.

The Bills (3-2) looked tired at times, rushed for only 29 yards, and had a rash of injuries.

Etienne scored on a 35-yard run with just under three minutes left after carrying it in from 6 yards earlier.

Josh Allen twice brought the Bills back late in the fourth quarter. He ran it in from 3 yards to complete a 75-yard drive that took just 45 seconds, making it 25-20 before the two-minute warning.

With the Bills out of timeouts, the Jags punted to the Buffalo 6, leaving the Bills just 22 seconds. Stefon Diggs caught a pass and tried to lateral it, but Jacksonville recovered the fumble.

STEELERS 17, RAVENS 10

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Kenny Pickett hit George Pickens for a 41-yard touchdown with 1:17 remaining, and Pittsburgh rallied past Baltimore.

Pickett and the rest of Pittsburgh's sporadic offense managed little over the game's first 55 minutes, but a late interception by rookie cornerback Joey Porter Jr. gave the Steelers (3-2) life. Pickett responded by driving Pittsburgh 80 yards in eight plays, the last 41 coming on a rainbow down the sideline to Pickens.

It was the Steelers' first touchdown in nearly nine quarters and it somehow was enough to beat the Ravens (3-2). Baltimore turned the ball over three times, including twice in the final five minutes.

Lamar Jackson's wayward lob to the corner of the end zone intended for Zay Flowers instead landed in the arms of Porter. Jackson later fumbled on the Ravens' penultimate possession, with Steelers outside linebacker T.J. Watt picking it up. Chris Boswell's third field goal put Pittsburgh up a touchdown, and Baltimore's final drive ended with Watt sacking Jackson.

JETS 31, BRONCOS 21

DENVER (AP)—Breece Hall ran for a 72-yard touchdown, Bryce Hall had a 39-yard, game-sealing scoop-and-score, and New York beat Denver.

The Jets (2-3) celebrated offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett's return to Denver, where he lasted less than one season as head coach. His successor, Sean Payton, trashed Hackett's coaching job during training camp this year.

The Broncos (1-4) fell to 0-3 at home under Payton.

Russell Wilson led the Broncos to a touchdown and 2-point conversion to make it 24-21 late in the fourth quarter. Patrick Surtain II's interception of Zach Wilson's pass to Garrett Wilson gave the Broncos the ball back at their 3 with 2:14 left, and the Broncos were nearly in field goal range when Quincy Williams strip-sacked Russell Wilson. Bryce Hall scooped up the bouncing ball near the sideline and took it to the end zone.

FALCONS 21, TEXANS 19

ATLANTA (AP)—Desmond Ridder passed and ran for touchdowns, providing an answer to those who had called for him to be benched, Younghoe Koo kicked a go-ahead 37-yard field goal as time expired, and Atlanta beat Houston to snap a two-game skid.

Ridder's 6-yard TD pass to rookie running back Bijan Robinson and 2-point pass to Tyler Allgeier gave the Falcons (3-2) a 15-12 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Houston rookie quarterback C.J. Stroud answered with an 18-yard scoring pass to tight end Dalton Schultz, giving the Texans a 19-18 lead with 1:49 remaining.

The biggest gain on Atlanta's decisive field-goal drive in the final minutes was Ridder's 23-yard pass to Drake London.

Stroud set an NFL record by starting his career with 177 pass attempts without an interception. He completed 20 of 35 passes for 249 yards and a score. The Texans (2-3) had a two-game winning streak snapped.

EAGLES 23, RAMS 14

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Jalen Hurts passed for 303 yards and a touchdown and rushed for 72 yards and another score, and Philadelphia outlasted Los Angeles to remain unbeaten.

Dallas Goedert had eight catches for 117 yards and an early TD for the Eagles, who are off to their second consecutive 5-0 start despite getting tested throughout this meeting of the last two NFC champions.

A.J. Brown had six catches for 127 yards, but the Eagles couldn't reach the end zone in the second half and had to rely on their defense, which shut out the Rams (2-3) after halftime.

Cooper Kupp had eight catches for 118 yards in the former Super Bowl MVP's dynamic season debut for the Rams, who have lost three of four despite hanging in with three probable Super Bowl contenders during that stretch. Kupp made five catches for 56 yards on Los Angeles' opening drive, but the offense struggled after that.

BENGALS 34, CARDINALS 20

GLENDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Joe Burrow threw three touchdown passes to Ja'Marr Chase, who finished with a season-high 192 yards receiving, and Cincinnati beat Arizona.

Burrow finished 36 of 46 for 317 yards in a much-needed performance after he was slowed by a calf injury through his first four games. Chase set a single-game franchise record with 15 receptions.

Cincinnati (2-3) scored a touchdown in the first half for the first time this season and had three offensive touchdowns overall, matching the unit's total from the first four games combined.

Burrow threw an interception deep in Cardinals territory when receiver Trenton Irwin fell while running a route, leading to an easy pick for K'Von Wallace.

SAINTS 34, PATRIOTS 0

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Alvin Kamara rushed for a touchdown, Derek Carr had two scoring passes and New Orleans routed New England.

Tyrann Mathieu added a 27-yard interception return for a touchdown to help New Orleans (3-2) chase Patriots quarterback Mac Jones from the game—the second straight week coach Bill Belichick benched Jones in the second half.

Kamara had 22 carries for 80 yards, and his 73rd career TD made him the Saints' career leader. Carr finished 18 of 26 for 183 yards, and Michael Thomas had four catches for 65 yards as New Orleans ended a two-game skid. The Saints outgained the Patriots 304 yards to 156.

It was the second-worst shutout loss in Patriots franchise history, trailing only a 52-0 drubbing in Miami against the undefeated Dolphins in 1972. New England fell to 1-4 for the first time since 2000, Belichick's first year as its coach.

DOLPHINS 31, GIANTS 16

MIAMI GARDENS, Fla. (AP)—Rookie De'Von Achane ran for a 76-yard touchdown, Tyreek Hill surpassed 150 yards receiving for the third time this season, and Miami beat New York.

The Dolphins' 524 yards gave them 2,568 this year, the most through the first five games of a season in NFL history.

Miami (4-1) regained first place in the AFC East after Buffalo (3-2) lost to Jacksonville in London.

Tua Tagovailoa went 22 of 30 for 308 yards with two touchdown passes and two interceptions.

Jason Pinnock returned one of the interceptions 102 yards, the only touchdown for New York (1-4). It was the Giants' first touchdown in the first half of a game this season and it tied for the longest interception return in team history.

Giants quarterback Daniel Jones left in the fourth quarter with a neck injury after a sack by linebacker Andrew Van Ginkel. Tyrod Taylor replaced him.

LIONS 42, PANTHERS 24

DETROIT (AP)—Jared Goff threw three touchdown passes in the first half and ran for a score in the fourth quarter, and Detroit kept Carolina winless.

The NFC North-leading Lions (4-1) are alone atop the division in October or later for the first time since 2016.

The Panthers (0-5) turned the ball over three times in the first half — two coming on consecutive snaps — to set up Detroit up for three touchdowns and a 28-10 halftime lead.

Carolina rookie quarterback Bryce Young, the No. 1 overall pick, was 25 of 41 for 247 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Gof was 20 of 28 for 236 yards, and his 1-yard sneak early in the fourth put Detroit ahead 35-10.

COLTS 23, TITANS 16

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Zack Moss upstaged the return of Jonathan Taylor by running for a career-high 165 yards and two scores, and Gardner Minshew was sharp in relief of the injured Anthony Richardson to lead Indianapolis past Tennessee.

The Colts (3-2) snapped a seven-game losing streak at home and beat the Titans (2-3) for the first time in six tries.

Richardson left with a right shoulder injury late in the first half. He went 9 of 12 for 98 yards. Minshew was 11 of 14 for 155 yards.

Moss averaged 7.2 yards on 23 carries in his second 100-yard game this season and caught two passes for 30 yards.

Ayton is embracing fresh start with Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Center Deandre Ayton made a promise to Portland Trail Blazers fans as the team embarks on a season of uncertainty.

"I bring dominance," he said. "My name is DominAyton."

Ayton came to the Trail Blazers in the three-team trade that sent Damian Lillard to the Milwaukee Bucks. He was all smiles as he was introduced this week, mugging for cameras and looking forward to a fresh start after five years with the Phoenix Suns.

"New beginning," Ayton said. "I get to show the world, show you guys who I am as a player on and off the court. Helping the young guys on this team win. Teaching them how to win."

Ayton will help fill the role that Jusuf Nurkic—who was sent to the Suns as part of the blockbuster trade—had last season. The Blazers also got Robert Williams III in a trade with the Boston Celtics, and as a result Portland has a pair of 25-year-old big men who have been on teams that have played in the NBA Finals.

AP

Portland Trail Blazers center Deandre Ayton poses for a portrait during the NBA basketball team's media day in Portland, Ore., Monday, Oct. 2, 2023.

"We are going to put a lot of pressure on the paint on the offensive end, and defensively we will protect the rim," coach Chauncey Billups said. "It's going to be a lot of fun."

Ayton, the No. 1 pick in the 2018 draft, averaged 18 points and 10.0 rebounds in 67 games with the Suns last season but it appeared his time in Phoenix was drawing to a close. He signed a four-year deal with Indiana last year before the Suns matched it, and rumors persisted this summer that he would be traded.

Billups emphasized the Blazers aren't going to ask Ayton to run the show, like Joel Embiid in Philadelphia or Nikola Jokic in Denver. The Trail Blazers in the post-Lillard era will be more of a group effort.

"We're not bringing in Deandre for him to be Embiid, where we're gonna throw him the ball 30 times a game and say, 'Alright, go be MVP.' That's not gonna be his role. However, he probably will have a more expanded role than he had at Phoenix," Billups said. "But again, like we've got a lot of young guys that are gonna be trying to figure it out. Y'all know how I feel about connectivity and being connected and those things take a lot of time."

For his career, Ayton has averaged 16.7 points, 10.4 rebounds and one block per game. He was key to the Suns' run to the NBA Finals in 2021. The next season, the Suns finished with the league's best record.

Last season, Phoenix was eliminated by Denver in the second round of the playoffs. Ayton didn't play in Game 6 of the series because of a rib injury.

Blazers general manager Joe Cronin maintains that Ayton hasn't yet reached his potential.

"Especially with big men, it takes a lot to get to where their peak is. I think Deandre is at least a couple of years from that," Cronin said.

For his part, Ayton said he wants to change the narrative.

"I'm in an organization that wants me, and wants me to succeed. So there's a lot more passion when you feel that mentally, you've seen it physically as well," he said. "So there will be a lot more grit and a lot more domination this year."

Cavaliers center Allen sidelined with bone bruise in ankle, could miss start of season

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland Cavaliers All-Star center Jarrett Allen could miss the start of the regular season with a bone bruise in his left ankle that will keep him out at least two weeks.

The Cavs said Saturday in a release that Allen was hurt this week during one of their first training camp practices. However, coach J.B. Bickerstaff indicated the center has been dealing with an issue for a while.

"It's just one of those things over time," Bickerstaff said following practice. "Not something that happened in practice and was triggered by something. It was something that had been building."

The 6-foot-11 Allen underwent an MRI on Friday and has started a treatment and rehab program.

Allen, who averaged 14.3 points, 9.8 rebounds and 1.2 blocks last season, will be reevaluated in two weeks. Based on the team's timeline, Allen will miss the club's three exhibition games and his status for the Oct. 25 season opener at Brooklyn is unclear.

Bickerstaff said is "hope" is that Allen will be ready for the Nets. Cleveland's first home game is Oct. 27 against Oklahoma City.

"I can't give you an honest answer on that because it's a bone and everybody is different as far as how long those things take," Bickerstaff said. "You can't control everybody's bone. But we wanted to do it now because we thought this was the best time.

"Give him as much time to rest and see how it heals and do all the things we can to help a speedy recovery and go from there."

Allen has averaged 14.5 points and 10.1 rebounds in three seasons for Cleveland. The affable 25-year-old was acquired in 2021 from the Nets in a three-team trade.

Allen anchors Cleveland's defense and his loss creates a major void inside. The Cavs addressed their need for frontline depth in the offseason by acquiring center Damian Jones—a move that went under the radar—and re-signing free agent Tristan Thompson, who spent nine seasons with Cleveland and was on the club's 2016 NBA title squad.

QUITUGUA

From page 20

the arm at a 90-degree angle.

Quitugua said the tournament for him was good, and when asked whether he will go to Guam to compete in the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Tournament there, he said he won't be going this time around.

In the Påtgon Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Tournament in Guam last April, Quitugua took the bronze in the ultra-heavyweight junior 2 category, and in the tournament also in Guam last year, Quitugua won silver in the ultra-heavy division for ages 11-13.

In the Peewee 4 (91 lbs-115 lbs) weight class, Alexander Diaz ousted Angeline Inos for the gold medal. Iris Quitugua claimed the bronze medal.

Eleven-year-old Diaz won over Inos in the finals via submission also by Americana. Even with that, Diaz said his finals matchup with her was a tough one.

Kaiya Pangelinan of the Peewee 3 (66 lbs-90 lbs) weight class defeated two boys for the gold medal. Franklin Camacho settled for silver, while Tate Manglona was the bronze medalist.

LAO ZHANG

Alexander Diaz, is first place in the Peewee 4 weight class, and is joined on the podium by second place Angeline Inos, right, and third place Iris Quitugua, left at the awarding of the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym last Saturday.

LAO ZHANG

Kaiya Pangelinan wins gold in the Peewee 3 weight class and is joined on the podium by silver medalist Franklin Camacho, right, and bronze medalist Tate Manglona, left, at the awarding of the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym last Saturday.

For her part, Kaiya said it felt great to win because "I trained and tried my hardest to win the gold." She added both competitors were tough as they made it hard for her to submit them.

Her plan in the matchups, she said, "was to go with the flow, look for openings, and win the competition. I won by points."

In the Peewee 1 (40 lbs-50 lbs) weight class, Sophia Choi won gold; Uriah Sblan won silver; and Ethan Kim won bronze.

Peewee 2 (51 lbs-65 lbs) weight class gold went to Deighton Muna; silver was Hani Reyes; and bronze was Jesse Concepcion.

Kids 2 (126 lbs-160 lbs) gold medalist was Mateo Almada; silver went to Matua Paguon; and bronze was Noel Quitugua.

MHS

From page 20

set for the win.

In other results, Saipan International II trounced Mount Carmel School II, 21-8, 21-12; Kagman High School II made light work of Saipan Southern High School II, 21-11, 21-12; Saipan Southern High School upset MHS in three tough sets, 18-21, 21-19, 15-6; Agape Christian School edged MCS, 21-19, 21-16; and SIS slipped past KHS, 21-6, 19-21, 15-6.

The regular season varsity standings are Grace Christian Academy with the top seed at a 7-1 record; ACS at No. 2 with a 6-2 record; SIS is No. 3 at a 5-3 record; Tinian High School is tied for fourth at a 4-3 record; MCS and MHS are tied for fifth with THS with a 4-4 record each; SSHS is next with a 3-5 record; then KHS is last at 1-7.

As the regular season is over, the playoffs are scheduled to begin on Thursday, Oct. 19, and Friday, Oct. 20, at the MHS Gym, with the championship rounds scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 21, at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

BLUE

From page 20

Vizion managed to slow down Blue Haus' offense and tried to mount a comeback with back-to-back shots by Fradel Sedillo and Dindo Pablo. It was anyone's game in the final minutes but a clutch three-pointer by Blue Haus' Melvin Capalad and a field goal by Junar Guiab stole the close win from Vizion.

Blue Haus' Tony Diaz made 19 points, Richard Peredo put up 18 markers, and Brendon Talania collected 15 points. Meanwhile, Vizion's Jeff Galvez had a game high 21 markers, and Pablo assisted with 16.

JSN also won against Vizion, 77-65, but lost to Legends, 67-65.

In their game against JSN, Vizion was once again at the cusp of making a comeback but was ultimately shut down at the last quarter.

JSN had a big second quarter lead, 40-27, despite trailing by 1, 16-17, in the first quarter, but Vizion didn't give up and tried to close the gap by just 13 points at the end of the third quarter. However, JSN's Jhun Tabora tore through the paint and had a game-high 25 points and dashed Vizion's hope for a comeback.

Jawn Joyner was right behind him with 12 points, while Bernard Montano had 9 markers. For Vizion, Rodney Catalla tried to lead them with his 18 points to no avail, while Leo Itaas made do with 8 points.

In the last makeup game of the regular season, Priority Care conceded to Easy Riders when they didn't show up in the continuation of their game last Sunday.

The playoffs were set to begin this week, but due to the Tropical Storm Bolaven it has been postponed until further notice.

Blue Haus 83 – Diaz 19, Peredo 18, Talania 15, Garcia 8, Esdrelon 8, Capalad 7, Atiogue 6, Guiab 2.

Vizion 79 – Galvez 21, Pablo 16, Catalla 10, L. Itaas 9, Tenorio 8, Sedillo 8, De Belen 3, J. Itaas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-8, 45-26, 67-53, 83-79.

JSN 77 – Tabora 25, Joyner 12, Montano 9, Berline 8, Bisana 6, Umali 5, Ocampo 4, Pelisamen 4, Olaitiman 2, Manabat 2.

Vizion 65 – Catalla 18, L. Itaas 8, Sedillo 7, Tenorio 7, Palero 4, Baul 4, Jumaquio 4, Pablo 4, Songoyo 3, Galvez 3, De Belen 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-17, 40-27, 59-46, 77-65.

Rangers beat Orioles 11-8 to go up 2-0 in ALDS.

PAGE 17

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ayton is embracing fresh start with Trail Blazers.

PAGE 19

IN PEEWEE, KIDS CLASS OF JIU-JITSU TOURNEY

Quitugua, Pangelinan, and Diaz golden

LAO ZHANG

Justo Quitugua is the gold medalist of the Kids 1 weight class and is joined on the podium by second place Trey Manglona, right, and third place Rey Hazlett, left, at the awarding of the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 30 children aged 5-13 put it all on the line in the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament, but only seven came out as gold medalists.

The Kids 1 (116 lbs-125 lbs) weight class gold medalist was Justo Jeremiah Quitugua, who won over Trey Manglona. Raymond Hazlett settled for the bronze medal.

Quitugua submitted Manglona via the Americana, "Americana Lock" or key-lock move, in which pressure is applied on the shoulder of the opponent by bending

See QUITUGUA on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

In the bronze medal round, Sam Pangelinan pins down Hudson Igisomar, but Igisomar ousted Pangelinan via points during the Påtgon (Kids) Jiu-Jitsu Fundraising Tournament at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym last Saturday.

Blue Haus, JSN win makeup games

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Blue Haus and JSN won their makeup games in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 last Saturday at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Blue Haus won both of their makeup games against Vizion, 83-79, and San Antonio Market-Lakay, 80-61.

With their wins, Blue Haus is the second seed in the masters division with a 6-1 record behind undefeated A Plus Team-Saipan Marine Corp.

In their game against Vizion, Blue Haus' starting five and bench rotation went mano-a-mano for a fight to the finish. It was a give and take in the last quarter despite a big lead by Blue Haus in the first half.

See BLUE on Page 19

LEIGH GASES

In this file photo, Blue Haus' Brendon Talania draws the foul as he goes up against Legends' Kelvin Fitial, right, and Dick Tibayan during their masters division game in the Inaugural SMEC-SMLEG Invitational Basketball Tournament 2023 at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

MHS II only undefeated v-ball team of season

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a great season of upsets, Marianas High School II was the only team to come out unscathed in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024, as they wrapped up the regular season last Thursday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS II bagged a perfect 8-0 record after they won in two sets over sister team, MHS III.

MHS III put up a great fight in the first set as the points went back-and-forth, but MHS got the upper hand in the end and took the win by just 2 points, 21-19.

The second set was a more masterful execution for MHS II's rotation of Jayme Vargas, Jean Roldan, Jillian Ferrer, Abbie Kim, Ella Hall, Fiona Regan, Leilani Attao, Peaches Bayot, Erica Zandueta, and Angel Ocaya, as they ripped their sister Dolphins apart in a quick 21-16 second

See MHS on Page 19

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas High School II's girls volleyball team is the only undefeated team in the NMIVA-PSS Interscholastic Girls High School Volleyball League 2023-2024 and is seen posing for a group photo at the MHS Gymnasium.